



FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL
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Headteacher

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Dear Parents

Welcome Back to School!

Ferndown First School will re-open for children in Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 on Monday 7th September. We are so excited to welcome the children back to school and eager to make the very best possible start to this academic year.

I wrote to parents in July and again last week, urging you to read the information we have already provided. If you have not yet made the time to familiarise yourselves with the plans I've shared, please do so as soon as possible. Further information is provided today, with photos and route maps to help.

Parental support, patience and complete co-operation will be key for our plans to work. The changes we have put in place will work, if you play your part.

DFE Guidance

Staff and Governors have been fully briefed on the most up to date guidance from the DfE and PHE, which the leadership team have used to develop our risk assessment and plans for re-opening. Whilst we have tried hard to make sure the children's experiences are as familiar as possible, many day to day routines will have to change.

- Arrangements when arriving at school and collecting children at the end of the day will be different.
- Our timetables will be different and the way children play and have their lunch will be too.
- Classroom layouts has changed, to maximise social distancing.
- Lunches will be eaten in classrooms (Years 1,2,3,4)

Car Park – No Parking – Walk and Stride

Parents will **NOT** be able to park or drop off in the school car park. Please do not attempt to. The gates will be controlled and access will be for listed school permit holders only. Please park at Tesco, the Leisure Centre or at St Mary's Church and walk. The Village Hall Car Park is fully booked. There are no available permits and a waiting list is in operation.

To avoid congestion and inconvenience to our neighbours, parents are actively encouraged to avoid Mountbatten Drive and Brabourne Avenue entirely. Emergency Access must be maintained at **ALL** times please.



Parking Permits

Permits will only be issued to families where children are blue badge holders or where **sole** parents/guardians are blue badge holders. Permits **do not** guarantee a parking space, which will be available on a first come first served basis. Permits should be clearly displayed and can only be used by the allocated driver, in possession of their blue badge.

We already know the families who are likely to need to use the disabled spaces. They will be allowed entry to the car park on Monday 7th September. If you need help to arrange a permit, please contact the office via email.

Arriving in the Morning

To maximise social distancing, we need to **strictly limit** the number of people on the premises in the morning and the afternoon. Parents are welcome to wear a face covering in queues and on the school playground. Children are not required to wear face coverings and should not wear them in school, unless guidance changes.

- Parents are responsible for their child until they enter the building, via their year group door.
- Please do not arrive on site too early.
- Please wait, off site, until shortly before your designated time, when you should make your way to your allocated waiting zone. Waiting Zones are marked on the attached plan.
- Parents can use the gate along the cycle path for more direct access to the waiting zones. Please take particular care if walking though the car park.
- Staff will be on duty and will stagger entry onto the school playground, via a gate near the Youth Club.
- Children should be accompanied by **one** parent or childminder or older sibling only
- Please do not come in groups. We would prefer all middle school and upper school siblings go straight to their own school please.
- If your child is brought to school by an older sibling, parents must check that our staggered entry arrangements will allow your older child to get to school on time. They should not bring their friends onto our site.
- Please be prepared for bad weather and remember that there are **no toilet facilities** available for families and no access to the school building. The bike sheds are also closed.
- Please make sure your child has everything they need for the day. If they forget a packed lunch, they will choose a school lunch on that day and any costs incurred will be invoiced to parents. We will not be contacting parents to bring forgotten items or lunchboxes.
- We are sorry that staff will be unable to have conversations with parents at the beginning of the day. Please contact the office if you would like to speak with a teacher.

Collecting at the end of the Day

- Collection arrangements will be similar to the start of the day. Please wait, off site, until shortly before your designated collection time, when you should make your way to your allocated waiting zone.
- Staff will allow one year group of parents at a time onto the playground, at the planned collection time. Classes will be lined up, ready for collection. Please move swiftly through the playground, following the one way system. Staff will not be able to have conversations at the end of the day. Please contact the office if you would like to talk to a teacher.



Siblings who attend Ferndown First School

In the morning, you should bring **ALL** of your children at the **earliest** time on the plan for your family and join that queue. At the end of the day, you should collect **ALL** of your children at the **latest** time on the plan for your family, joining the appropriate year group queue.

Punctuality

If you are late to school in the morning and have missed your child's year group entry time, you will have to wait until other year groups have entered school. If we have closed the gates, parents should phone the office and follow instructions. Children **MUST NOT** be dropped off alone.

Staff have commitments after school. They are unable to provide child care and parents must do all they can to ensure they arrive on time to collect their child. Parents who arrive late will need to wait until a member of staff on duty is available to help you. If staff are no longer on duty, please call the school office.

Breakfast Club – 7.45am

Parents should contact the office, via email, if they would like to secure a place at Breakfast Club. The office team will be in touch with booking forms and payment arrangements. Children attending Breakfast Club should be taken to the Staff Entrance at 7.45am. They will be sent to their classrooms at 8.25am.

Lunchtime – School Meals – No need to pre-order

The way we provide hot meals to the children will be different. Children can bring their own packed lunch, if they wish, however, those who do not bring a packed lunch will choose a meal each morning. The teacher will ask the children to choose what they would like when they take the morning register.

Meals are free of charge if your child is in Year R, 1 and 2 or eligible for benefit related free school meals. Meals for all other children in Years 3 and 4 cost £2.30 and parents will be invoiced for these meals weekly.

We provided the full 3-week menu cycle in our newsletter in July. The menu options for the 7th September is from the **WEEK 3 OPTIONS** below.

Monday 7th	Tuesday 8th	Wednesday 9th	Thursday 10th	Friday 11th
Chicken Goujon Wrap	Pork Sausages	Ham Roll	Lamb Kebab Pitta	Fish Finger Wrap
Vegetable Swirl	Vegetarian Sausages	Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Vegetarian Sausage Puff	Cheese, Tomato and Basil Quesadilla
Crinkle Cut Wedges	Cheese Straw	Crinkle Cut Wedges	Diced Potatoes	Chips

In addition to the main or vegetarian option, children will have a choice of the following each day:

- Vegetable sticks or vegetables of the day
- Fruit Wedges
- Dessert of the day



UNIFORM AND PE KIT

All children should be wearing full school uniform every day during the week commencing 7th September. Please make sure they have a suitable waterproof coat.

From week commencing **14th September**, on the day your child has **outdoor games**, they should wear PE Kit. All other days, children should wear full school uniform please.

Children will be allowed to wear a **plain** navy, black or grey tracksuit on cold days and they may wear trainers to school. Please do not send your child to school in any affiliated team kit or branded clothing which is not suitable for school. Children who forget their PE Kit will have to take part in their school uniform.

From the 14th September:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 1 2L	EYFS	2J and 2EH Year 3	Year 4

Stay at Home Guidance - Households with possible or confirmed Coronavirus (Covid19) Infection

If you or any of your household have any of the symptoms below, you **must stay at home** and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19. The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a *new continuous* cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 however mild, you must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started. If you live with others, all other household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken.

If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they must stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.

Patience and Time

Tomorrow, we will be sending home a special message for the children to help them prepare for school. Please share this with your child over the weekend. Parents of children joining our school in EYFS will also be given further information at their meetings next week.

Parents are reminded that schools have had to overcome complex challenges to prepare for the new term. There are changes to our routines which will be less convenient for you. We ask you to plan accordingly because safety and the children's education are our priorities and these will always be at the forefront of our decisions.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J M Di-Pede
Headteacher

