



PLANS FOR SCHOOL RE-OPENING

September 2021

Introduction

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer holidays. We are really looking forward to the start of the new school year. Building work has been completed on time and we return to brand new learning spaces and new toilets and cloakrooms in Year 2, 3 and 4. This part of school has been transformed!

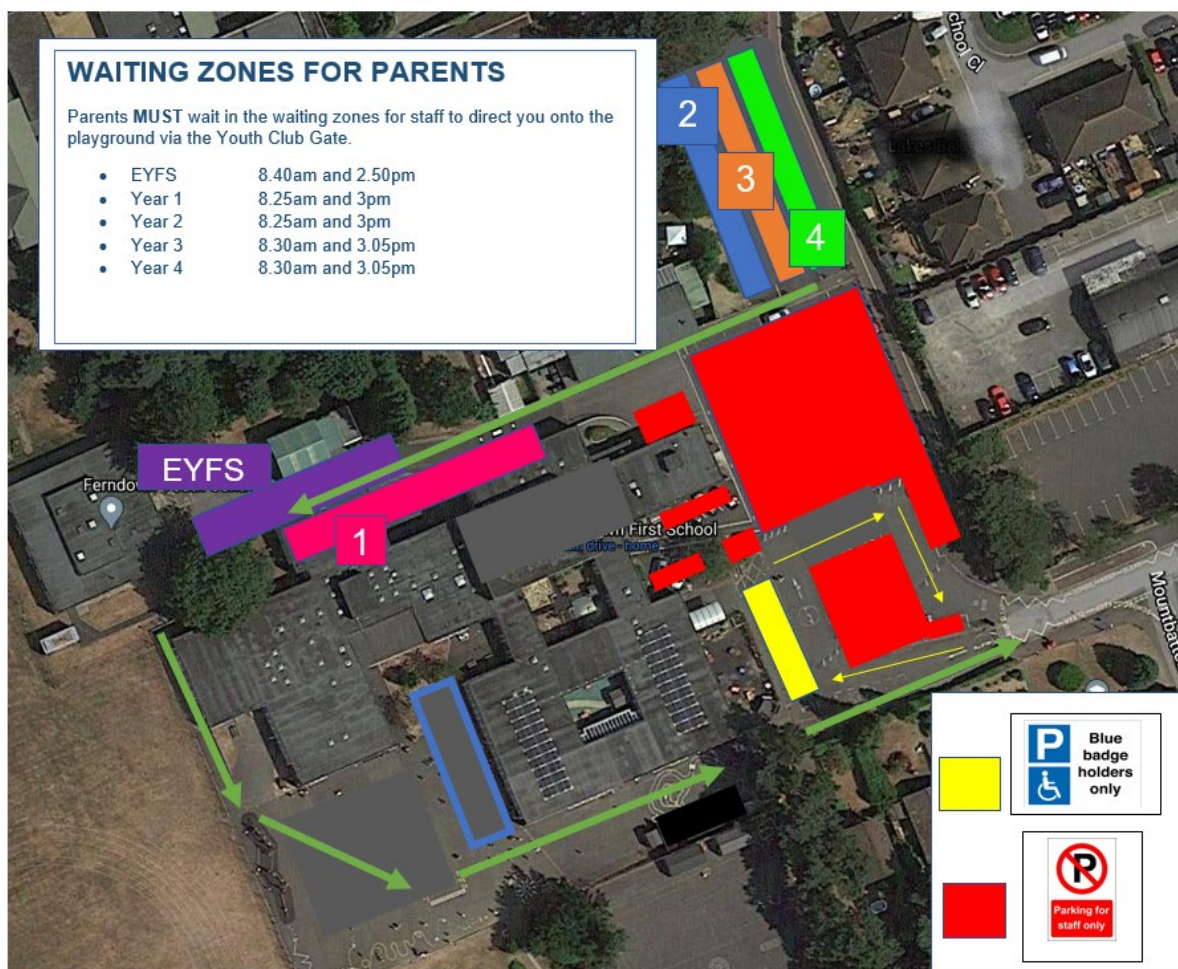
The arrangements in the following plan is operational from 1st September 2021 and has been formulated with the aim of preventing a Covid-19 outbreak within our school community. It has been written in line with the DFE Operational Guidance which was revised on 27th August. This is a working document which is subject to government changes.

Back to School

- Children in Years 1 to 4 will start back at school on Monday 6th September.
- Children who are joining EYFS (Reception) will start school on Friday 18th September, following a short transition period during the week commencing 6th September.

School Day

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Start of Day	8.40am	8.25am	8.25am	8.30am	8.30am
End of Day	2.50pm	3.00pm	3.00pm	3.05pm	3.05pm



- As we all settle back in to school, ***all children, in all year groups***, will need to be accompanied by an adult onto the school playground, via the Youth Club gate.
- Siblings should stay together in the mornings and you should bring all of your children to the first queue for your family. Parents should collect at the latest time for your family. The children need to arrive on time and, wherever possible, only one adult should bring and collect their child from school.
- Staff will do all they can to keep queues moving safely and swiftly. The times provided are a guide.
- Parents are asked not to enter the school building unless by prior arrangement please. If you wish to pass on a message, please do so via email to the office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk
- Please leave the school grounds promptly after dropping off and picking up children, using the main front gates please. Please avoid walking across the car park.
- Parking on the school premises is for staff and authorised visitors only. Parents with a “Blue Badge” can apply for a school car park permit. There is no other parking available on site and parents are asked to park at Tesco or at St Mary’s Church. Please be respectful to our neighbours and avoid parking in Mountbatten Drive and Brabourne Avenue.

Social distancing

- It is preferred that social distancing remains in place when parents are entering the school grounds, wherever possible.
- The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don’t normally meet. We will leave this decision to parents.

Illness

- Children who are unwell should not be brought to school in any circumstances. If a child develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test we will follow public health advice.
- Children should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice. For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be moved to an isolation space, with an adult made available to support them.

Asymptomatic testing

- Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances. There is no need for pupils at our school to test regularly, however, families may choose to do so as a precautionary measure.

Confirmatory PCR tests

- Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.
- If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Other considerations

- All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.
- In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. Schools can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Schools will make this decision carefully, in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

Attendance

- School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.
- Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by PHE or the DHSC they will be recorded as not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus.
- Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they will be recorded as illness.
- Parents are discouraged from taking children out of school for term time holidays. Any absence for holiday will be unauthorised.
- Absence from school is monitored by Mrs Bramley, our School Support Worker. If you are having difficulty ensuring your child's regular attendance at school, please ask for help.

Punctuality

- It is important that children arrive punctually and are collected punctually.
- If children are late arriving at school, parents are asked to wait until all other year groups have been safely admitted before staff will be able to assist you. Please do not leave your child unattended.
- If parents are late to collect children at the end of the day, this will have a significant impact on staff who have commitments directly after school. Please arrive on time.
- We know that, on rare occasions, parents may be slightly delayed. In situations like this we will do all we can to help you until 3.30pm.
- If a child is not collected by 3.30pm, they will be taken to join the DTCA After-School Club (until a maximum time of 5pm) for which parents will be charged the full sessional fee.
- Parents will be required to pay the fee at the time of collection.
- If payment isn't made at this point procedures will be followed to ensure the debt is recovered.

Learning

- As at the start of any school year, the first few days will be spent establishing relationships and routines to help your child to settle into their new class. The full curriculum will be delivered and there will continue to be an emphasis on children's mental health and well-being.
- There will be a strong focus on literacy and numeracy for all children, with phonics being taught from the beginning of the term. Teachers will be getting to know their pupils and establishing the next steps for individual children. Catch-Up Tuition will return later this term for identified children. If your child is selected for tuition, we will provide more information.

Ventilation

- Staff will ensure internal classroom doors are kept open to limit touching of handles and increase flow of fresh air. For the same reason some windows will be kept open during the day.

Equipment

- Children should bring a coat and their water bottles to school every day. We are happy for book bags to come in to school every day, from September. Teachers will explain the arrangements for changing reading books.

Uniform

- Children should return to school on Monday in school uniform.
- From week commencing Monday 13th September, children should wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE and Outdoor Games. No PE kit is needed during the first week back. The timetable for PE Kit days is below.

From w/c 13 th September	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Games	Year 2	Year 3	EYFS	Year 4	Year 1
PE	Year 3	Year 2	EYFS	Year 1	Year 4

Hygiene

- Everyone in school will be required to wash their hands regularly and follow the usual hygiene rules.
- The rules of 'Catch it, bin it, kill it!' and coughing into elbows (rather than into the air) will be reinforced.
- School will be cleaned during the day and thoroughly at the end of every day.
- Every classroom will be well-stocked with liquid soap, paper towels, cleaning products, clean cloths, tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Government guidance states that the use of PPE is not necessary in school, however, staff will wear gloves and plastic aprons when dealing with children displaying symptoms of Covid-19
- School staff may choose to wear a face covering whenever they wish.

Playtime and Lunchtime

The children will no longer be in year group bubbles. We have decided to arrange playtimes with Year 1 and 2 playing together and Year 3 and 4 playing together at the earlier time of 10am.

- EYFS and Year 1 lunchtime will be 11.45am until 12.45pm
- Year 2 lunchtime will be 12pm until 1pm
- Year 3 and Year 4 lunchtime will be 12.15pm until 1.15pm

All hot meals will be eaten in the school hall. Children in Year 2, 3 and 4 who bring a packed lunch will eat in their classes. The menus for hot meals will be displayed on the school website from the start of term and the children

Visitors

- Visitors will be welcomed into school **by appointment** but will be required to continue social distancing.
- Parents are asked to avoid entering the school office without an appointment.
- Wherever possible, any meetings with parents will continue to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams or by telephone.
- If you need to speak with a member of staff, please contact the school office.

Remote Learning

- If any individual child needs to isolate due to Covid-19, work will be provided via Tapestry. Please refer to the school's remote learning policy on our website for further information.

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding procedures will be as they would normally be, following the guidance set out in our policies and the 'keeping children safe in education' statutory guidelines.
- Parents are reminded that the school follows procedures agreed by the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership. If staff in school are concerned for a child, we might speak with other professionals, including Children's Services, before we speak to you.

Covid-19

- Our Covid-19 risk assessment has been updated and a Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan will be published on our school website.
- Our Outbreak Management plan outlines what we will do if children or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how we will operate if we are advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission.
- Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children any measures in school will only be considered as a last resort, for the shortest amount of time possible.

Supporting the well-being of our school community

- Staff are aware of the need to support children who may be anxious. Activities have been planned to provide time for children to talk about their families, their experiences, their worries and their hopes.

I hope that you have found this summary document reassuring and informative, giving you a clear picture of how school will operate in the autumn term 2021.

Week Commencing 6th September 2021

Mrs Errington would usually teach 2ES on Mondays but Mrs Smith will be teaching the class on the first day back. This is because Mrs Errington and I will be attending a national conference on Monday to support our school improvement work on teaching writing. It's very unfortunate timing but we will both be back in school on Tuesday 7th.

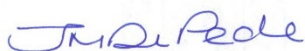
Mr Watts, our Deputy Headteacher, will be in charge at school on Monday and here to greet you and the children and ensure the first day of term runs smoothly.

A newsletter will be published on Friday 10th September with more updates. In the meantime you may like to check out our website for some photos of staff summer wedding celebrations and a sneaky peek at the building work project.

We are looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Enjoy the weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J M Di-Pede
Headteacher