

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dear All,

I hope you have had a great week. The weather has been much cooler but at least it's helped the plants grow!

In the early part of next week you will receive your child's report and communication from the school about which teachers are teaching which classes next year. After consultation with the LA, the bubble system prohibits us from doing many of the usual transition activities, a part from the activities already on Frog which children are doing at home and in school. Videos for each class's new teacher will be posted to Frog too, so parents and children can virtually meet the new teachers.

The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that they are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of key workers over this period. Children will be coming back to school in September. Since we received the final guidelines yesterday we have already started making plans to ensure the best transition possible for your children. We will inform you of these plans as soon as we are able too. These plans will include:

- The assumption that all children will return to school fulltime
- Attendance at school in September will be compulsory and parents who do not send their children back to school in September will face fines.
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Grouping children together
- Avoiding contact between groups
- Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks if possible
- Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
- Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix
- Older children should be encouraged to keep their distance within groups
- Schools may keep children in their class groups for the majority of the classroom time, but also allow mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching and wraparound care if possible
- All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable
- Avoid close face to face contact
- For children old enough, they should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible. This will not be possible for the youngest children and some children with complex needs
- Schools should make small adaptations to the classroom to support distancing where possible. That should include seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on
- Groups should be kept apart, meaning that schools should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies
- Movement around the school site kept to a minimum.
- Schools should avoid creating busy entrances and exits
- Schools should also consider staggered break times and lunch times
- Schools should consider staggered starts or adjusting start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school
- Schools should maintain the adopted process that has been agreed for drop off and collection,(no parents on the school site) including that gathering at the school gates and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed.
- Supply teachers, peripatetic teachers and/or other temporary staff can move between schools.
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- For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, it is recommended that staff and pupils have their own items that are not shared.
- Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble
- Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment should be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.
- It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. **Small** bags are allowed.
- Pupils and teachers can take books and other shared resources home
- Parents and staff should engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- School kitchens will be fully open from the start of the autumn term and normal legal requirements will apply about provision of food to all pupils who want it, including for those eligible for benefits-related free school meals or universal infant free school meals.
- It will not be necessary for schools to make significant adaptations to their site to enable them to welcome all children back to school.
- In the autumn term, schools can resume educational visits.
- There will be no overnight educational visits in the Autumn term
- The curriculum remains broad and ambitious: all pupils continue to be taught a wide range of subjects but make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content. Schools may consider how all subjects can contribute to the filling of gaps in core knowledge, for example through an emphasis on reading
- Substantial modification to the curriculum may be needed at the start of the year, so teaching time should be prioritised to address significant gaps in pupils' knowledge with the aim of returning to the school's normal curriculum content by no later than summer term 2021.
- Relationships and health education (RHE) for primary aged pupil schools and relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) for secondary aged pupils becomes compulsory from September 2020, and schools are expected to start teaching by at least the start of the summer term 2021.
- For pupils in key stages 1 and 2, school leaders are expected to prioritise identifying gaps and re-establish good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics), identifying opportunities across the curriculum so they read widely, and developing their knowledge and vocabulary. The curriculum should remain broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year, including sciences, humanities, the arts, PE/sport, RE and RHE.
- For PE, outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not
- Schools should consider the provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities to all pupils designed to: support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19) support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing
- Routine Ofsted inspections will remain suspended for the autumn term.
- The early years foundation stage profile, and all existing statutory key stage 1 and 2 assessments, should return in 2020 to 2021 as normal in accordance with their usual timetables. This includes: the phonics screening check in Y1 key stage 1 tests and teacher assessment in Y2 the Year 4 multiplication tables check key stage 2 tests and teacher assessment for Y6
- Reception baseline assessment has been postponed until September 2021

We await further guidance on all of the extra matters and some of the practicalities. Of course we have all seen how fast things change (as in Leicester) and although we will be planning for September along these guidelines and working out what this will look like at Finham Primary – things could all change and final confirmation will be given by the government in August based on scientific advice. Unions also, I am sure will be having conversations with the government, not in an obstructive way but to seek clarity on some of the points in order to protect children and staff as much as possible. I feel that for now we can assume that children will all be back in September and I will of course keep you informed with more information as it becomes available.

Have a lovely weekend

Sarah Bracken

SCHOOL LEAVERS

If your child is leaving at the end of the school year, please could you contact Mrs Sargent on d.sargent@finhamprimary.co.uk and make her aware which school your child will be transferring to. You do not have to contact her if you are in Year 6 or Nursery unless you have received an individual email from Mrs Sargent asking for confirmation of the school your child is attending.

COMMUNICATION

As a school, we are communicating with you as soon as government guidelines will permit us to. Please only read and listen to these communications from school and not social media platforms.

SCHOOL MEALS – CURRENT YEAR 2

If your child is currently in Year 2 and will be moving into Year 3 in September, your child will no longer be eligible for Universal Free School Meals so from September you will be charged £2.10 a day, £10.50 a week. Please could you email admin@finhamprimary.co.uk before the end of term if your child will be stopping School Meals in September. Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

