



The John Fielding Special School
Ashlawn Drive
Boston
PE21 9PX

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to keep you up to date with the latest in our planning for returning to school in September. Please excuse the length of this letter in which I will try to answer the many questions that I am sure you have about this process.

Opening Date

We plan to open school for all pupils on Monday 7th September. Other schools have made arrangements with Lincolnshire County Council to open later than this or to phase opening but we have assessed our training needs and are confident that with just 2 additional days we can be ready for opening.

Training Days

The school will be open for staff training on Tuesday 1st September – Friday 4th September. We have quite a backlog of training that has built up over the past few months. This includes: First Aid, Specialist Medical Training, Safeguarding, De-escalation of Challenging Behaviour, Moving and Handling, Curriculum.

Class Groups

You will have received your child's end of year report with their class group for next year and staff team. I have kept class teams as similar to last year as possible to aid those children who have had a long period out of school. Classes will remain entirely in their class bubbles through the day with the exception of Otters and Swans, who will form a 'double bubble' to enable us to create 3 literacy and numeracy groups in Key Stage 2. This was a very successful approach we used last year to accelerate the progress of all children across the Key Stage.

Each class has a designated toilet which is not shared with any other class. The class teams will ensure that the cleanliness of toilets is maintained with checks and cleaning between each pupil use. Similarly, there will be a thorough clean before and after every use of our hygiene suites which are used by those pupils who require supported changing.

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Head Teacher: Dr Richard Gamman Assistant Head Teacher: Mr Aaron Bloodworth-Flatt

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Within classes there will be enhanced levels of hygiene with hourly cleaning down of surfaces and resources. We will be adhering to current guidance that children should not be sitting face to face with one another and should have their own designated seats and seating places.

We cannot achieve social distancing and so will allow the children to play reasonably freely with one another in the belief that to restrict their ability to play spontaneously will be detrimental to their mental health and well-being. Having said this we will gently bring to an end any play that does involve physical contact.

Transport

I have met with Transport Connect and in September they will need to return to transporting children in geographical groupings, ie children from different classes will be together on transport. There are simply not enough vehicles available for them to maintain class groupings for travel to and from school. They have the following procedures in place:

- The vehicles will have a clean down after each trip and a full deep clean daily
- Escort staff will wear gloves and masks throughout
- Drivers will not wear PPE at the wheel but will if supporting with loading and unloading
- Children will not be expected to wear PPE
- Transport Connect will be adhering to Government guidance on staff staying off work with symptoms and the test and trace system

The Government is asking parents, where possible, to consider transporting their children to school in September. If you normally use Transport Connect but wish to bring your child in September please let the school know as soon as possible. Transport Connect will still allocate a place to your child which you will be able to make use of when you judge that the time is right.

We will operate a system of timed arrival and departure slots to minimise gatherings of children or adults. These will be between 8.40 and 9.20 in the morning and 2.50 and 3.30 in the afternoon. Parents bringing their children will be given a 5 minute slot within which we ask you to arrive.

Coronavirus Symptoms

The school will adhere to the Government guidance in place at the time regarding staff or pupils who show symptoms or contract coronavirus. The current guidance may be found through the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>.

In brief, anyone displaying symptoms must stay at home for at least 7 days and arrange to get a test. Any member of a household where someone is displaying symptoms should remain at home for 14 days.

If a pupil displays symptoms in school we will put them into isolation and contact you immediately to come and collect them.

We will follow current Government guidance regarding the NHS test and trace protocols to ensure that any confirmed cases are tracked back to reduce the transmission of the disease. We ask that all families do the same and keep us informed of any suspected cases within their households or circles of acquaintance.

Uniform

Ideally, we always like our pupils to wear uniform for many reasons including a sense of community identity and belonging. However, at this time cleanliness of clothing to reduce risks of cross contamination is our greatest concern. Therefore, we are happy to relax uniform expectations but ask that clothes are changed and washed frequently, ideally daily.

Visitors to School

We will be welcoming back people who provide therapy or other services to your children from September as these are vital parts of the educational package we offer at John Fielding School. We will expect all visitors to work with only one class bubble per visit and to confirm in our visitors book who they have worked with.

We will keep contractors to 'out of hours' work where possible and when they do need to visit during the school day will ensure that there is no contact with pupils and risks of contamination within the building are minimised through use of PPE and cleaning.

School Dinners

School Dinners for Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage Pupils, those who wish to purchase a meal and those entitled to a free school meal will be available from Monday 7th September. For the first 2 weeks, whilst our supplier Farm Kitchen, get themselves back up and running only 'pack-up' style meals will be on offer. Hot dinners will be available from Monday 21st September. For the time being we will not be using the hall for meals, instead these will be delivered to classes for children to eat in their class, supervised by the class staff.

Cleaning and Hygiene

We have purchased 2 large pump dispensers of hand sanitiser at the entrance to school to be used by everyone entering and exiting the building. Your children will be taught good practice in handwashing techniques using soap and warm water for a minimum of 20 seconds and encouraged to do this regularly and before meals, snacks and after using the toilet. We would be very grateful if parents could send in personal supplies of handwash, sanitiser and moisturiser for your children to use to ensure that it is a brand you are happy with and to reduce possible risks of cross contamination on containers.

The classroom staff will be particularly vigilant in cleaning surfaces during the working day. They will also spend time at the end of the day tidying away so that the cleaning team can focus their time on cleaning floors, furniture, surfaces and handles thoroughly rather than on tidying jobs.

There are some pupils who need adults to provide care that means the adults must wear PPE. We have been taking guidance on this from the Public Health Division at Lincolnshire County Council and are developing plans that we hope means we can readmit our children with the most complex needs in September.

Curriculum

I have been following the development of the Recovery Curriculum over the last few months and we will be ensuring that when your children return to school we are mindful of the impact that the disruption of the past few months may have had on them. We will be intensely focussed on

settling them, rebuilding relationships with adults and peers and supporting them in relearning the routines that support them in their learning. A motto from the Recovery Curriculum is 'an anxious child is not a learning child'.

We will be resuming curriculum trips out gradually. They are a vital and integral part of our curriculum across the school but particularly so for our oldest pupils. Trips out have additional risks and so I will be ensuring that every visit is risk assessed and signed off by CIT Director of Education, Claire Buffham. Each trip will be evaluated for any learning points which may emerge.

We will not be following our extensive programme of additional off site sports during term 1 but will be liaising with the local swimming pools, gym, tennis club and bowling alley with a view to returning as soon as we have completed site specific risk assessments with the managers of those settings, some of which are still only in the earliest stages of reopening and not ready to plan for us yet.

Partnership working

I have valued enormously the messages of support, constructive feedback and occasional challenge from parents over the past few months. I frequently say to the staff that we are learning new ways of working together and I rely hugely on feedback from others to make our provision the best it can be. Please continue to let me know when we are getting it right and when there may be things we have not thought of.

With my very best wishes,



Richard Gamman
Headteacher