



Executive Headteacher - Mrs. Judith Jones
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18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

It was wonderful to be able to welcome you all back into our schools last week and especially exciting to meet all our new children properly. The governors and I would like to welcome all our new families into our federation community. We hope you have a happy time with us. The Reception children have been amazing, particularly since they have had hardly any kind of induction beforehand. We are also very proud of the amazing job the other infant children in their bubbles have done in befriending and supporting them all to succeed.

The children have returned with such enthusiasm, positivity and calm. They may well have been very nervous about returning to school beforehand, but they have been absolute superstars, willingly taking on the added responsibilities of all our hygiene control measures.

Curriculum and Class Learning Plans

We have spent (and will continue to spend), time building relationships, getting the children used to new rules and routines and getting them back into their learning using our version of the Recovery Curriculum. We have many exciting things planned for them, but will be very mindful to establish a baseline from which to progress the children's learning. We know that each child will have had their own individual home-learning experience and will therefore have covered different amounts of the learning we sent home and possibly other learning you may have provided. As a result, all children will have different strengths and different gaps in their learning. Please be assured that we have planned for this and that phonics, reading, writing and maths will have a strong 'catch-up' focus for us this term. We will be revisiting and teaching part-covered or missed sections of the national curriculum to ensure your child gets what they need in order to progress to the next stage in their learning journey.

Catch-up Funding and Learning Support

You may have heard that schools will receive some money from the government over this year to allow us to employ a tutor to help coach small groups or possibly individuals who we assess to be in greatest need. We are in the early stages of planning for this and will let you know if we feel your child needs to be part of this programme. As always, if you have any concerns about an area of your child's learning or wellbeing which may have suffered during school lockdown, please let us know so we can be quickly aware and support them.



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Safeguarding

I would like to remind you all that our federation is committed to the safety and welfare of all our children, as well as all staff and visitors. Our updated safeguarding and child protection policy is available as hardcopy in either school as well as on each school website. All staff received their annual update/refresher training on 3rd September and will continue to have updates through the year. Please note that as part of this commitment, we have a legal duty to inform Social Care of any child protection concerns we have. In the majority of cases, should any concern arise, a member of staff will contact you to discuss this matter and if necessary refer to Social Care. Please be aware that you may not be contacted in advance of a referral if we consider that doing so would place a child at risk of immediate, significant harm, and we appreciate your support with this matter.

If you have any child protection concerns or questions, please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL): Mrs Judith Jones – Executive Headteacher and Lead DSL, Mr Jon Wheeler Deputy DSL Carleton Rode and Mrs Sharon Creasey, Deputy DSL at Forncett. Our deputy DSLs work across both schools if needed. Our named Safeguarding governor is Mrs Liz Service and she can be contacted via the school office.

Attendance

An important separate letter has gone home about attendance – please contact your school office if you have not received it.

Health & Safety & Risk Assessment

We have been busy over the summer ensuring the school is Covid 19 compliant (the certificates are displayed in each school), and that all the risk assessments for each premises, any individuals and for the general running of the school are complete and kept up to date. The guidance is regularly updated and we keep abreast of this too, regularly reviewing our procedures to ensure things are as safe as we can make them while enabling the smooth running of the schools.

Staff Arrangements

Staff are social distancing from one another and where possible from the children. They remain in their bubbles, take breaks in separate areas, and meet online, outdoors or in well-ventilated areas at a distance if necessary. As in other schools, it is essential for the running of our schools, that a very few staff move between the bubbles at certain times. This is done in as safe a way as possible, following all the DfE guidance, local school compliance code and by using all control measures available to us. If necessary, we may have to use a supply teacher in a class, but we will use a trusted company who we know are Covid 19 compliant to ensure the guidance for using supply are all followed.



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Notification Procedures for Covid 19

We have been provided with clear case management information and have all the procedures in place should we have a case and need to apply them. If we are notified of a positive case, we will notify the LA team and phone the school's DfE helpline number where a team will risk assess with us and instruct us in the course of action we must take. We will then notify you as soon as we possibly can and send a letter that will outline the details we can share and what you will need to do. Please remember that if you, your child, or any of your household develop one, two, or all of the three main coronavirus symptoms which are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

you must arrange to get a test and isolate you and your household. Once you know the outcome, you can then follow the NHS guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

People who do not have any of the above symptoms do not need to get tested. **If you or anyone in your household tests positive, please notify us as soon as possible so we can take prompt action to protect everyone.**

Colds & Coughs

The season for colds is already upon us and several children in the federation have colds. Symptoms such as sore throat, sneezes and runny noses are not normally symptoms of coronavirus so we will not be treating them as such. Unless the cold is heavy and they feel too unwell to come to school, children can come into school with a cold. Often children develop a cough as part of their cold and we understand this. We do not wish to send anyone home unnecessarily, but as you can imagine, coughs are a more difficult area. From reading all the NHS site/guides we can see, it seems that if a child in school coughs continuously over a period of an hour, this would need us to take action. We know a cough is normal for several of our children, especially those with asthma/allergy. However, if their usual cough got a lot worse, then again, this may need action.

We have an infra-red, non-contact thermometer in school and will use this to check the temperature of any child who becomes unwell. If we find their temperature is 37.8 or above, we will gently isolate your child and call you.

We will only send children home if they are too unwell to be in school (non-Covid 19 related), or if they are showing any of the signs and symptoms of the coronavirus.



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School Value

This half-term, across the federation the children will be exploring the value of thankfulness. This fits well with the situation we have found ourselves in the last few months and will lead up to harvest thanksgiving. Although we will not be able to hold services yet, we will be collecting food (details to follow) and holding alternatives to our usual services.

Emergency Contacts

Please make certain that we have the correct mobile number, landline number (if available), and email address for you **and at least one other** emergency contact for your child/ren.

Birthday Treats

We have decided that the safest and best thing to say is that we will not be able to allow cake/sweet treats to be bought onto school premises to give out to classmates at this time. We know this is hard, but maybe parents and carers could find other ways to share such treats for the time.

Back-Packs/bags

We had originally asked parents and carers to send children into school with a plastic bag of the things they needed. Now we have assessed and seen how it's working. We are happy for children to bring in back-packs and other school bags if they wish to.

I do apologise for such a newsy letter. There seem to be so many important things to let you know about at present.

Thank you for your support with using the different entrances/exits and respecting the classroom thresholds. We also appreciate the fact that only one adult from each household comes onto the premises to drop off/collect their children.

Please let us know if you have any queries, concerns or need more information.

Many thanks,

Judith Jones