



Executive Headteacher: Mr A Raistrick
Head of School: Mr R Chipperfield

Surfleet Primary School
Station Road, Surfleet, Spalding, Lincolnshire. PE11 4DB
Tel: 01775 680373
Email: admin@surfleet.lincs.sch.uk
Website: www.surfleet.lincs.sch.uk

4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Return to School

It has been a long time since our schools were fully open for all children and it is good to feel the vibrancy of our fully operational schools. The children are clearly pleased to be back and feel some sense of normality.

Everyone will have slightly different feelings about returning to school; adults as well as children, and school will feel different to how it was when lockdown started on 23rd March. We must maintain social distancing within school. Our year groups (classes at Surfleet) are referred to as bubbles and all children must remain in their bubble throughout the school day. Bubbles cannot mix. This means single year groups (Bubbles) will have play times and lunchtimes together. It is why we must have staggered starts and ends to the day so that the risk of transmission across bubbles is reduced.

Other elements of school life that everyone will find different to pre-lockdown are:

- When dropping off your child and collecting your child from school, please adhere to social distancing by standing on the marked crosses on the playground.
- Only one parent/carer to drop and collect children from school.
- Parents/Carers are not allowed into school unless for a pre-arranged meeting. Face masks must be worn for any such meeting.
- Please send your child to school in their PE kit on the days when they have PE.
- Cloakrooms are not being use as these are congestion points. Children will have their bags and coats in the classrooms with them.
- Lunch will be in the classroom. There will be no hot lunch provision.

All the above protocols are designed to reduce and minimise the risk of infection and transmission of the virus. The above is referenced in our detailed risk assessment, which is available on each school's website. The risk assessment has been written following the government's guidance on the full opening of schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

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Our risk assessment will be reviewed regularly, considering updated guidance from the government and balancing local practice against the control measures we have in place in each school.

We recognise that all children will have enjoyed a range of different learning experiences during lockdown and we have put, as per government guidance, a recovery curriculum in place for the Autumn term. This comprises of focussing on three strands of learning; pastoral, curriculum and behavioural. We recognise that some children may have some anxieties and worries about returning to school, so we have universal pastoral support for all but more focussed for those children who may need a little more support. Our curriculum has built in time for those children who may have gaps in their Maths and English learning. Our ambition is for all children to reach their age-related learning as soon as possible within the school year and certainly by the end of this academic year. We recognise, too, that all children will need reminding of the routines and behaviours expected in school so we will be spending time re-establishing these structures.

Home learning will look different, too. Home learning will begin on 2nd October and will be facilitated through Seesaw; there will be no paper homework. We feel it is important for children to settle back into school life and learning before we start to send learning home. Many children will feel a little overwhelmed initially and will struggle to maintain concentration throughout the day, hence our delay of a month before sending learning home. Should there be a future lockdown, home learning will be facilitated through this forum. Going forward, Seesaw will be used to provide home learning for children who are not well enough to come to school. Log on details for Seesaw will be given out nearer the time.

Attached with this letter is a government document 'Returning to primary school: what parents need to know.' You may find this useful.

The pandemic has not gone away. There are many challenges that lie ahead for us all. Your support and understanding during lockdown were hugely appreciated. Please be assured all the protocols and procedures we have in place for the current school year are there to ensure the safety and well-being of staff and children alike. I am sure the same level of understanding and support shown during lockdown will continue. As ever, should you have any queries, please speak with a member of the leadership team at your child's school.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Raistrick

Executive Headteacher

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