Bentley Avenue, Yaxley, Peterborough PE7 3ZT
Tel: 01733 703611 Email: help@fourfields.cambs.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Mrs. Sue Blyth
Assistant Head Teacher: Mrs. Lucy Hewerdine
School Business Manager: Mrs. Clare Watchorn
www.fourfields.cambs.sch.uk

4th January 2022

The Return to School in 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year! A number of parents joined me on a Facebook Live this evening but I wanted to make sure the whole school community were in receipt of the information. Please make sure you read this latest guidance along with a letter which will be coming from the Local Authority.

START OF THE DAY

You can still drop your child off at school any time between 08.40 and 08.55. We started this drop off window in the pandemic and it was very well received by everyone, so we are keeping it! This should ensure that everyone has plenty of time to get to school and that no one is late.

At least for January I am requesting that face coverings are worn when you are on the school site, including at pick up and drop off times. Although Omicron is not as severe, it is much more transmissible and we want to keep children and staff in school. Therefore please respect this request unless you are exempt. Please also adhere to the One Way system in place and don't walk against the flow of traffic.

BUBBLES

Children are still not required to be in bubbles and will be able to play and meet with other children at playtimes and lunchtimes. We will only need to revert to bubbles, should there be a COVID outbreak. This has already happened for a number of year groups and I thank parents for their support when we have had to ring fence classes.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

For the rest of this month we will not be having visits to the school. I would ask you please to limit any visits to the school office and always email or call in the first instance. If you do have to enter the school building, please make sure you are wearing a face covering and if your meeting has been pre-arranged, please make sure you have carried out an LFT before entering the building. Once again we will not be having several families waiting in the foyer. One family at a time please; make sure you are on time for school- everyone should be able to arrive and leave through the school gate. There is a 15 minute window and plenty of time to be on time!

END OF THE DAY

Please enter by the Queens Street Gate and leave by the Daimler Drive Gate as you do in the morning.
Reception and KS1- Please collect at 3.10pm (Reception part time sessions finish at 3.00pm)
KS2- Please collect at 3.15pm.
You do not need to leave the site and come back round again, to collect older siblings, please stay on the playground and wait for your child.

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COVID SAFETY

You will know that there has been a change to the isolation guidance. Staff and children can now come back to school if they have had 2 negative LFTs on Day 6 and Day 7. We will be asking for proof of a negative LFT so please do register the result on the NHS website so that you can share the text or email with us. The guidance does still state however that for Day 8, 9 and 10, people should still socially distance and not be in crowded spaces. Classrooms are not conducive to this and therefore if you decide to keep you child at home for the full 10 days, this will continue to be authorised.

The new Omicron variant reportedly presents a different set of symptoms, these include fatigue, headaches and a sore throat, these however are not confirmed. If your child shows these symptoms then you may consider doing a Lateral Flow Test.

It is my absolute priority to keep school open as far as we are able. The pandemic has already had a significant impact on the emotional wellbeing of our children and in some cases has had a huge impact on behaviour for some. We have seen this in school and are dealing with this on a daily basis, therefore we know children need the consistency of school. However, staffing was becoming extremely challenging towards the end of the Autumn Term and we start the new term with staff absence. It may be necessary to move to remote learning once again, where it becomes impossible to safely staff a class. I will not take this decision lightly because I understand the impact on working parents, but I think it's important that I set out that possibility from the onset. As I type I am listening to the Prime Minister in his press conference and he has asked the public to acknowledge that this may happen if we have substantial staff absence.

We don't want to close and as staff we are vaccinated and testing regularly. I therefore ask for your support in wearing a face covering on the school site and continuing to make sure your children are washing their hands regularly and are testing if they display any symptoms.

It's still not normal, but I'm confident we will get there…soon!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 6th January.

With very best wishes,

Sue Blyth
Head Teacher

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