



Friars Primary School & Nursery

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

Principal - Mr C. McClay

Vice Principal – Mr S. Roche

Constable Way, Shoeburyness, Essex, SS3 9XX

Tel: 01702 294837 Fax: 01702 382820

www.friarsprimary.co.uk

Email: office@friars.southend.sch.uk



PORTICO
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

CEO – Mrs C. Woolf

Wednesday 26th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that everyone has been able to enjoy the past five weeks and that the children are excited about returning to school. Next week will see us welcome back everyone in Years 1 through to 6. The children in Nursery and Reception start a little later. As a reminder it is now compulsory for children to be in school. We cannot wait to have a full school once again!

It is very reassuring that the virus continues to pose a far lower risk nationally than it did earlier in the year. Recently MPs and scientists have stressed that the risk to children is very small and that children pass on the virus far less than adults do. The different measures we will have in place will minimise the risk further. This letter outlines information about our reopening and there is also an updated Frequently Asked Questions document which should prove a handy guide for quick reference. The information will seem very familiar as much was shared back at the end of July.

Covid-19 Symptoms

It is obviously really important that if a child or adult ever shows symptoms of Covid-19 that they stay at home, self-isolate with their family and do not come into school until the end of the self-isolation period or a negative Covid-19 test is returned. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If a child or adult is in school and shows symptoms we will follow guidance and ensure that they are well cared for and that they go home as soon as is possible. Should we receive confirmation of a positive Covid-19 test amongst our school population we will seek Public Health guidance immediately as to our next steps. We will act accordingly with the instructions we are then given.

‘Bubbles’

Most children will spend their days in class-group bubbles. During lessons, breaks and lunches the children will stay together in these consistent groups. The exceptions to this will be in Early Years and in Year 1 where the children will be in year group bubbles. The open-plan environments and approaches to learning in these year groups mean that year group bubbles are essential.

Breakfast Club, Extended Schools and Extra-Curricular Clubs

As we shared in July, we are not able to offer our breakfast club, extended school provision or extra-curricular clubs for the time being. We are committed to having these back up and running as soon as possible.

Uniform and Equipment

Normal school uniform should be worn. The children should bring a book bag, a water bottle and a coat into school. In the event of warmer weather, a hat should also be provided and sun cream applied before school. The children will each have a zipped wallet of their own stationery to use. If equipment or

resources are shared across bubbles they will either be left for a safe period of time in between or scrupulously cleaned.

PE

We are now asking for children to wear their PE kit to school on PE days. This will avoid extra bags coming into school and will remove difficulties around changing.

PE Days	
Monday	Year 2
Tuesday	Year 4
Wednesday	Year 1 and Year 3
Thursday	Year 5
Friday	Year 6

Start of the Day

For children in Years 1 to 6 there will be a 30-minute drop-off period between 8:30am and 9:00am. The children can arrive at school at any point during this period. We will be asking for parents and carers to drop their children off at the outside gates where members of staff will be ready to receive them. The children will then walk onto the school grounds and into the building where an adult from their class will be waiting. By asking parents and carers to not come onto the school site in the morning, we will be able to maintain social distancing across the drop-off window and get the children inside quickly. If you have children in different year groups and you would like them to enter the school site together, please send them through the gate closest to the younger child's classroom. Staff will be on hand to guide the children to where they need to be if they are unsure.

Please can we have only one adult dropping off. Initially, we will not be able to accommodate bikes and scooters on site. We hope that this can change in the first autumn half-term.

Classrooms

Classrooms have to look a little different but they will still be happy places! Children's tables will now be forward facing and in rows. Of course with 30 children in a classroom, they will not be spaced apart like children were before the summer when there were no more than 15 in a room. The class teacher will have a clear space to teach at the front. Adults will not be moving around their classrooms as much as they would normally as they will be making sure that, in accordance with guidance, they adhere to distancing where possible.

There will be a few other little changes such as there being less furniture in the room to allow for more space and soft furnishings will be removed.

Children and adults will only move around the building when necessary and we will be ensuring that children from different bubbles do not come together.

Face Coverings

The Government guidance continues to be very clear regarding face coverings and their use in primary schools. Children should not wear face coverings in school and staff should only wear them for specific reasons. Studies show that using and wearing a mask incorrectly can be more dangerous than wearing one at all. Please do not send your child into school wearing a face covering. There has been a lot of talk in the media about children in secondary schools wearing coverings. Whilst guidance appears to be changing here, it is highly unlikely that children in primary schools would be encouraged to wear masks at any point.

Lunch Times and Break Times

We will be offering our normal hot and cold lunch menu. Please see the menu within this letter. Lunch times will be staggered to ensure that we can safely seat the children so that they are not facing each other. Any break times will also be staggered to ensure that the children remain in their allocated

bubbles. It would help us if meals were paid for at the beginning of the week as this will reduce handling of money. Normal free school meal offers will be available.

Each class will have their own small equipment to play with at break and lunch times. There will also be a rota system in place to allow the children to play on the larger equipment. Cleaning of the larger equipment will be scheduled.

Snacks

We are unable to offer our snack bar at the current time, however, The Greggs' Foundation who fund our breakfast club have kindly agreed to provide a fruit snack for every child in KS2 until further notice. KS1 children will continue to receive a government funded fruit snack. Children can still bring in their own healthy snack if they wish.

Hygiene

Enhanced cleaning of the building will happen throughout the duration of the pandemic; this includes additional cleaning of toilets. Key to stopping the virus continues to be good handwashing and respiratory hygiene practices. The children will be expected to wash their hands at key times of the day, for example after break time, before and after lunch and after using the toilets. On entering the building at the start of the day the children will use hand sanitiser. At all other times they will wash their hands with liquid soap and water. The children should not bring their own hand sanitiser into school. Tissue bins will be in every classroom and will be emptied regularly.

End of the Day

For the time being we must ask that only one adult collects at the end of the day. If you have more than one child in the school, you can walk around the school site to collect your other children. The one-way system is no longer operational. All we ask is that everyone adheres to social distancing and keeps to the left of our walkways as marked. If you need another parent to collect your child, please make sure that we know in advance. Please see the final page of this letter for further information regarding drop-off and collection times.

Communication

We do appreciate that many parents like to discuss their children with the class teachers at the beginning and end of the day. This is also important to us, but to maintain social distancing and to clear the site as soon as possible, we will not be able to do this at the classroom doors. Instead, we will be setting up year group email accounts for you to contact teachers directly. These email accounts will be in place by the end of the first full week back. Until then please either email or call the school office. Please only visit the office at the end of the day if your child has a specific medical need or a vulnerability. We are now asking all visitors to wear face coverings when entering the school building. This includes anyone visiting the office hatch. If you have an appointment in the school, all parties must wear face coverings. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

On Tuesday next week we will be sharing a video of what our school looks like so everyone can get a better idea of the changes we have made. We are currently getting the building all ready and sparkly. Over the summer break we discovered that we were successful in securing Government funding to replace the tired cladding at the front of the school. We were very excited to hear this news as it means that the outside of our building will soon look as lovely as it does on the inside!

Do enjoy the last days of the holiday and we will see you all very soon!

Yours sincerely,

C. McClay

S. Roche

Mr. C. McClay
Principal

Mr. S. Roche
Vice-Principal

Autumn Dinner Menu

Week one	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main meat meal	Homemade spaghetti bolognese and bread roll	Sweet and Sour chicken and rice	Roast pork, apple sauce and crispy roast potatoes	Homemade ham, cheese and tomato quiche and new potatoes	Cod fish fingers and chips
Main vegetarian meal	Cauliflower and broccoli pasta bake	Cheese and tomato omelette	Vegetable Ravioli	Cheese pastry	Veggie fingers and chips
Alternative options	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch
Accompaniments	Peas Salad bar	Green beans Salad bar	Mixed vegetables Salad bar	Sweetcorn Salad bar	Baked beans Salad bar
Dessert	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Fruit crumble and custard	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Fruit trifle	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Ice cream tub	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Marble sponge and custard	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Biscuit
Week two	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main meat meal	Chicken and broccoli pasta	Homemade mild beef chilli and rice	Roast turkey, Yorkshire pudding and crispy roast potatoes	Homemade pork sausage and bean casserole and creamy	Beef burger in a bun and chips
Main vegetarian meal	Cheese and potato pie	Vegetable savoury rice	Quorn sausages	Veggie roll	Cheese and tomato pizza
Alternative options	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna Cold packed lunch
Accompaniments	Garden peas Salad bar	Sweetcorn Salad bar	Mixed vegetables Salad bar	Carrots Salad bar	Baked beans Salad bar
Dessert	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Jam sponge and custard	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Date and chocolate slice	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Cheese cracker and grapes	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Ice cream tub	Fresh fruit Yoghurt Ring doughnut

Every day we offer a cold packed lunch menu

- A choice of wholemeal and white rolls, wraps, sandwiches, baguettes or sausage rolls.
- A variety of fillings available daily: Ham, cheese, chicken, tuna, egg mayonnaise or cream cheese
- Accompanied by crudites of either peppers, carrots or cucumber
- A piece of fresh fruit, a fruit pot, a packet of fruit, a variety of fruit yoghurts or fruit format frais
- Fresh fruit juice, semi-skimmed milk or water

Arrival and collection times for the start of the Autumn Term

Year group	Arrival time	Drop-off point	Children will then walk themselves...	Collection time	Collection point	Leave school via
Year 1	Between 8:30 – 9:00am	Gate next to Site Manager's house (Gate 1)	Through the KS1 gate and to their classroom door	3:00pm	KS1 gate	Main gate near zebra crossing (Gate 2)
Year 2		Main gate near zebra crossing (Gate 2)	Through the Year 2 gate and to their classroom door		Year 2 gate	Main gate near zebra crossing (Gate 2)
Year 3		Children's Centre Gate (Gate 3)	Along the path at the front of the school and to their classroom door	3:15pm	Classroom doors	Main gate near zebra crossing (Gate 2)
Year 4		Children's Centre Gate (Gate 3)	Through the KS2 gate, enter through the Library door and to their classroom door		KS2 door near bistro	KS2 gate then Children's Centre Gate (Gate 3)
Year 5		Children's Centre Gate (Gate 3)	Through the KS2 gate and to their classroom door		Classroom doors	KS2 gate then Children's Centre Gate (Gate 3)
Year 6		Children's Centre Gate (Gate 3)	Through the KS2 gate and to the Middle base door (6D) or Year 6 door (6G)		Middle Base door(6D) Year 6 door (6G)	KS2 gate then Children's Centre Gate (Gate 3)

