

# Friars Primary School & Nursery

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

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**PORTICO**  
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

**CEO – Mrs C. Woolf**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are thoroughly enjoying the summer holidays and the extra freedom we now have since the removal of COVID-19 restrictions. It is very pleasing that the main points in the DfE's school guidance for September 2021 remain unchanged. This means that we can move forward on our journey towards a more normal school. Our intention is to return to how the school operated pre-pandemic, as much as possible.

As we shared before the summer, one of the biggest and happiest changes is that the children will no longer be in 'bubbles' when we return. This means that the children can mix with others from outside their class. This allows for assemblies, breaks and lunches in larger groups. Maths groups and other group teaching can also happen once more.

To combat the risks of COVID-19 we will be following the four control measures as stipulated in the DfE guidance:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

As a school, we have an Outbreak Management Plan in the event of a surge in COVID-19 cases. This is an expectation of the DfE so that all schools are prepared should an outbreak occur.

### Contact Tracing and Isolation

Thankfully, schools no longer have to undertake contact tracing; all close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. This will mean that anyone in school will only be traced where the positive case specifically identifies an individual as being a close contact. Even then, children under 18 do not have to self-isolate if identified as a close contact but should take a PCR test.

It is still the case that anyone under or over 18, must self-isolate if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or if they test positive. It is vitally important that we continue to work together to prevent the spread of the virus to keep everyone as safe as possible.

### Remote Education

If a child tests positive and is having to self-isolate but does not have symptoms and is well enough to learn from home, we will continue to provide remote education.

**Almost all of the following information is repeated from our letter sent on Friday 19 July.**

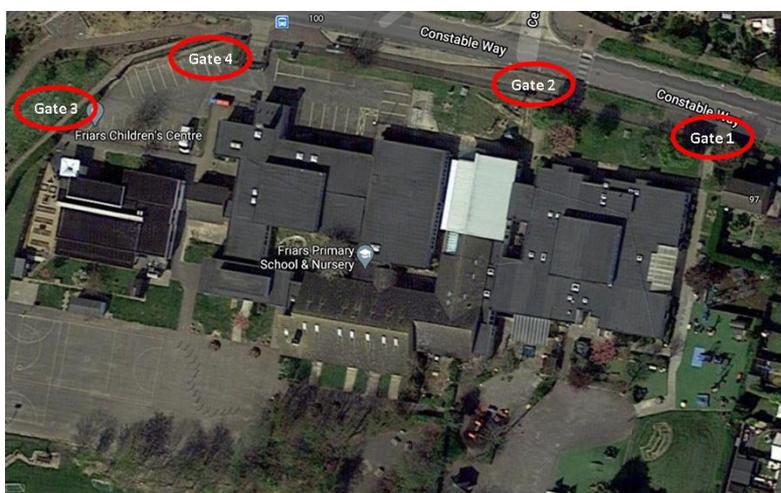
Start of the Day

As we explained in July, there will be now be a drop-off period between 8:30am and 8:45am for Years 1 to 6. The children can arrive at school at any point during this window. We will continue to ask 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.

The children can enter through any of the outside gates but, of course, it makes sense for them to access the school site from the gate closest to their classroom. If you have more than one child at the school, please send your children through the gate closest to the younger child’s classroom.

The best gates for drop-off are:

- Gate 1: Year 1
- Gate 2: Year 2 and 3
- Gate 3: Years 4, 5 and 6



End of the Day

Our end of day arrangements will return to those from before the pandemic. Our KS1 children will finish their day at 3:00pm and KS2 children will finish at 3:15pm. Please see the table below for collection points:

Year Group	Class	Collection Point
1	1B	1B classroom door
	1C	1C classroom door
2	2B	Year 2 gate
	2S	Year 2 gate
3	3JD	3JD classroom door
	3ML	Library door
4	4B	Bistro door (opposite KS2 quiet area)
	4S	KS2 door (opposite KS2 quiet area)
5	5BW	5BW classroom door
	5VW	5VW classroom door
6	6D	6D classroom door to the playground
	6G	Door next to Y6 and the external toilets

Queuing systems will no longer be in operation. Please do continue to leave the site swiftly after collection. Please note that Gate 4 – the car park gate, will no longer be in use.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am to 8:30am and will begin week **beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. The club accommodates children from Year 1 to Year 6, and Reception children after the first half term. Parents and carers who completed the survey before the summer received confirmation of places for their children.

### Extended Schools

We are able to accept new children into our Extended Schools provision for 2021-22. Sessions run until 5:30pm and cost £8, which must be paid in advance via ParentPay. If you are interested in your child attending, please contact the school office from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. This provision will also recommence week **beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. As mentioned before, we will need to assess the cost effectiveness of Extended Schools each half term, as we cannot run the provision at a loss.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

As a school, we are committed to offering after school opportunities to our children. We work to make sure that every child can attend a club at some point in the academic year if they would like to. We will share information about our extra-curricular clubs offer soon.

### Uniform

We believe in high standards at Friars and we expect all of the children to wear full school uniform. For 2021-22 we will be making a permanent change for PE days and will continue to ask you to send your child(ren) to school on these days, wearing their PE kit. Please make sure you have the correct PE kit of a white/purple t shirt, black shorts and trainers or plimsolls. A tracksuit or jogging suit of neutral colour can be worn as the weather turns colder. PE starts week **beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

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

### Equipment

The children should bring a bag into school for their belongings. A separate book bag can also be brought in, if you so wish. A water bottle, coat and hat should also be provided and sun cream applied before school when necessary.

### Bikes and Scooters

We are happy to say that the children can bring in a bike or scooter once again. We do recommend that bikes and scooters be left locked in the shelter opposite the main office. The school cannot accept responsibility for any damage or theft.

### Lunches

Our lunches continue to be provided by Pabulum. Our next menu change will be after the October half term. Please continue to book and pay for meals through ParentPay. Even if you do not pay for meals, you do still need to book a meal for your child.

**If your child is moving from Year 2 to Year 3 and is not eligible for free school meals, you will now need to pay for lunches.**

## Snacks

We will share information about our KS2 snack bar early in the autumn term. Until this time, please send your child to school with a healthy snack. KS1 children will continue to receive a Government funded fruit snack.

We hope that you have a lovely final week together. We will see you all on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. We cannot wait!

Yours sincerely,

*C. McClay*

*S. Roche*

Mr. C. McClay  
Principal

Mr. S. Roche  
Vice-Principal