



Friars Primary School & Nursery

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

Principal - Mr C. McClay

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PORTICO
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

CEO – Mrs C. Woolf

Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are almost at the end of another academic year. It has again been one of disruption but with the lows, there have been many highs. Thank you once again for the support you show the school and for working with us through the challenging times we have faced. We can only hope that the future is far brighter than the past eighteen months and that our lives and our school return to as close to normality as possible.

At present, we unfortunately have all of our Reception children and many of our Reception staff isolating which is a terrible shame. We also have other children and staff at home, isolating too. We wish them all well. It does seem that COVID-19 cases are rising rapidly in Southend and we are aware of schools where several year groups are isolating. The new Government guidance schools have received tells us that we can begin to remove restrictions from Monday 19th July. It is vitally important that we continue to keep ourselves as safe as possible and for this reason we will not be making any changes to the way we are working for the last few days so that we can send the children, our staff and families off for the summer as fit and healthy as possible.

From September, the guidance suggests that children will no longer need to be in 'bubbles' and that they can mix. If the guidance remains the same, we can return to having assemblies and organising breaks and lunches together in larger groups once again. It will also mean other school activities can start to happen too.

We know that the virus has not disappeared and that it still poses risks. In school, we will follow the updated guidance and we will continue to focus on high standards of hand and respiratory hygiene as well as ensuring that we have adequate ventilation throughout our building. Further Government guidance relating to self-isolation is following this summer.

Despite the restrictions that have been in place for most of the year, we are very proud to have still managed to give our children many great opportunities including;

- Year 6 Camp
- Thriftwood visits for Year 5 & 6
- Educational visit to Colchester Zoo for Year 2
- Educational beach and park visits for Year 4
- Viking visitors for Year 3
- Gemma's Farm visited Year 1 and Reception
- Swimming sessions for Year 6
- Bikeability for Year 6
- Nursery, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 Sports Days
- PTA parties on the field
- Key Stage 2 online safety workshops
- Year 6 Mini-Fete
- And of course, our ongoing outdoor learning and team building with Mr Brady.

We were pleased to welcome you to our outdoor 'book sharing' afternoons this half-term. One thing we are very keen on doing is seeing you again inside our school. When we return after the summer, we will let you know about the events we will be planning for the academic year so that you can put dates in your diaries.

This letter outlines lots of information for moving forward and further news will come to you before we return in September. Please note that if you have another child who is beginning in Reception, you will receive separate communication from Mrs. Bennett our Early Years Leader.

Reports

We are happy to be sending reports home today. The best thing about Friars is our children and it has been lovely reading all of the reports this year. Last year, our school reports reflected the children's time up to the March 2020 lockdown, whereas this year the picture is a fuller one, despite the spring closure. At the back of your child's report, there is a page for you and your child to make comments if you would like to. These pages should be returned to your child's class teacher. Please note that attendance and late figures are up to Friday 9th July.

Start of the Day

We are very keen to **return to our normal school day**. In September, there will 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. We have found that having the children go straight into classrooms has resulted in a very settled, focused start to the day resulting in better learning.

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.

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

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am to 8:30am and will begin week **commencing Monday 6th September 2021**. The club accommodates children from Year 1 to Year 6, and Reception children after the first half term. Please complete the form using the links below if you would like to request a place for your child(ren) at our Breakfast Club. We must ask that this **be completed by 12pm on Tuesday 20th July**. We will confirm places in writing on Wednesday 21st July. Our Breakfast Club remains free of charge but please note that this might not always be the case.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=itiMSBXflk2j9Bz-n-Er10bCB-ga8xLqdx3IRe4LsBURTdENzgwQjZCME5RU1U1SUFSSMwTjFMRC4u>



Extended Schools

Our Extended Schools provision was reintroduced this spring and we are able to accept new children 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 use the links below to register your interest for a place and further details will be sent to you. This provision will also recommence week **beginning Monday 6th September 2021**.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=itiMSBXflk2j9Bz-n-Er17tsRfN3PGRAsVT8XCyNOf1UREpSNUtHSIpGRUJBMTRJRERQSTAwVDBWQi4u>



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 early in the autumn but we hope to have sports and enrichment clubs running every day after school.

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 a bit colder.

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.

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.

As we mentioned earlier in the letter, even more information will come to you later in the summer. Should Government guidance change before September and this then affects our plans we will let you know as soon as possible. We really hope that there are no changes.

If you do have any questions before we break for the summer, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Have a wonderful holiday. We will of course see you next week and then again on Thursday 2nd September 2021. All the very best for the summer!

Yours sincerely,

C. McClay

S. Roche

Mr. C. McClay
Principal

Mr. S. Roche
Vice-Principal