

THE FOUNTAINS COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOLS FEDERATION

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THE FOUNTAINS FEDERATION

Always achieving our potential

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Gilraine

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20th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well in these unusual times. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience whilst we are waiting for further information on the widening of schools reopening. As you are aware our school has remained open and will continue to offer places to children of essential workers and those pupils who are considered to be most vulnerable. These are places that have been negotiated and risk assessed on an individual level with myself and the senior leadership team.

You will have seen on the news that the Government are wanting schools to open up gradually to students from 1st June for Reception, year one and year 6 children in mainstream settings. The Government guidance gives specific advice for special schools:

'Special schools and special post-16 institutions should work towards welcoming back as many children and young people as can be safely catered for in their setting.'

From Monday 1st June, and only if you and the Government think that it is safe to do so, we are planning to increase the numbers on site, offering most students some time in school, which will hopefully increase over time.

When students attend, they will:

- work in a small group of up to 5 students and up to 3 staff
- work in one classroom and not access any other part of school apart from to go to the toilet
- have their own desk, seat and resources (pens, pencils etc.) where appropriate
- have at least 1 hour outside activity during the day - in their group (weather permitting).
- eat their dinner in their classroom
- have frequent opportunities to wash their hands throughout their day
- go straight to and from their class from transport

Additionally:

- Antibacterial wipes, tissues and hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms
- Classrooms will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day
- All hands (staff and children) must be sanitised before entering the building
- No passenger assistant/parent/carer will be allowed in school
- The hall will be used at the beginning and end of the day for students entering and leaving the building
- Only one parent or carer will be allowed in the foyer at any one time
- No unnecessary visitors will be allowed in school
- There will be no whole school assemblies or larger gatherings of students

We have had some telephone calls today from parents who are concerned that the Government are moving too quickly and have asked if it would be reasonable for them to keep their child at home for the foreseeable future. I would just like to reassure you that this is fine – you know your child and their needs best and if you feel it is still safer to keep your child at home then we will support this. The Government are clear that families choosing not to send their child back to school yet, will not be fined or prosecuted.

Pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms must stay at home. Government testing is now available for all our students and staff should they show any symptoms

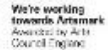
If your child is clinically vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning.

It's important to know that we are going to do what we can to socially distance within the limits of a school and the understanding of the young people. Teachers have been asked to undertake lessons but with no formal marking and feedback taking place.

Thank you to those of you that have completed the survey (<https://cutt.ly/LyWumw9>). If you have not completed the survey please do so before the 27th May 2020. You do not have to make a final decision and can contact the school by phone on 01283 247580 after this date if you later decide you would like your child to attend. If you have asked for child to attend school we will contact you by phone to discuss which day your child can attend and answer any questions you may have. It may not be possible due to pupil risk assessments, staffing and building requirements to offer all students a place.

Please do not send your child to school unless you have been given a definitive day to attend, with the exception of students whose places in school have been previously agreed and are ongoing.

Please send your child with a packed lunch. If you are receiving free school meal vouchers, these will continue unaffected until further notice. It is hoped that the school kitchen will be able to open in the very near future.



For those students who are transported by parents you are asked to bring your child to school for 9:15am and collect at 2:45pm from the main entrance. Please remain in your car and wait for a member of staff to collect them.

If you are planning on using your child's usual local authority transport please contact them on the following numbers:

Staffordshire County Council: 01785 277339 / 01785 278950 / 01785 277366

Derby County: 01629 536723

Derby City: 01332 641729

Finally, it is with great regret but no surprise that all of the activities that would usually take place in the summer term such as 'Sports Day' and 'The Summer Fayre' will be cancelled. We will however, if possible attempt to hold the leavers ceremony and Prom at a later date if safe to do so.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Allen
Head of School

