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Drifffield Northfield Infant School  
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**'All Moving Forward  
Together'**

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Once again thank you for your patience as we gather information and plan towards a phased reopening. As I am sure you can imagine this is a very difficult process; we are being tasked with trying to potentially accommodate twice as many classes into our school without additional classrooms or staff!

Thank you to those who completed our initial survey. This was very helpful in helping us to begin our planning. I am now in a position to give you more information about what we are able to offer and to help you confirm your decision as to whether you send your child back to school or not. Please remember this is entirely your decision and we will support you in whatever you decide to do; fines will not be issued for those who do not attend.

As outlined in my previous letter the government has asked us to plan for the return of our Foundation Stage (Reception) children first. Unfortunately, I am really sorry that we are not in a position to re-open for Year 1 or Year 2 at this time due to the social distancing restrictions and not being able to have more than 15 children in a group. We will however do our very best to make arrangements to support Year 2 transition to the junior school in some way. We just need more time and to see how the virus changes the situation we face over the next few weeks.

### **Foundation Stage**

To offer as many children as possible some time in school, whilst keeping numbers as low for safety, we are able to invite the reception children in for two days per week from the **8th June**, if the government gives approval to wider re-opening of schools. This will be either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays the school will be closed to all but the children of critical key worker children so that a deep clean can take place. If you are a critical key worker and this does not suit your childcare needs further days can be made available but this will need to be in a different group and would not be with your child's class teacher or teaching assistant or within the Foundation Stage classrooms

I understand that this is a very difficult decision and you have many things to consider before deciding what is right for your child, family and circumstances. We will support your decision, whatever that may be; fines will not be issued for non-attendance and home learning packs will be provided, which match the learning taking place in school. I have outlined some of the safety measures we are putting in place and realise you may have other questions as well. You do not need to make a firm decision yet, but using the responses we received from the initial survey we have allocated days to those who responded 'yes' they would like their child to return or that they are still 'undecided'. The set days, along with

start and finish times, will be sent to you by text on the morning of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. As you will understand this has been a very difficult task as we have to ensure that groups are equally balanced in numbers to minimise contact. Unfortunately we are unable to guarantee children will be with all their friendship groups. We have initially organised this by age with the youngest and oldest children in each group. If you are a key worker and require more than the allocated two days please contact the office and we can make arrangements for this. Again this is not a firm decision and all we ask is that you confirm with us, preferably before **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**, as to whether or not your child will be returning the following week. If you responded 'no' or decide now is not the right time for your child, there will still be opportunity to change this either before the 8<sup>th</sup> June or during the next half term; please just contact us and we can make arrangements for this.

### **Safety Measures for all children, parents/carers and staff**

Our main priority is the safety of children, staff, families and the wider community. We have worked closely with the guidance and advice provided by the government and Local Authority to carry out rigorous risk assessments. The following will be implemented to ensure that everyone is working in the safest way possible to minimise any risk.

- Children will only work in groups of no more than 15 other children at all times and will not have contact with other groups.
- Children will be with the same teacher, teaching assistant and lunchtime supervisor throughout their days in school each week.
- Groups will have their own designated classroom and outdoor areas which other groups will not access. For the children of key workers this may be a classroom somewhere across the school not just the Foundation Stage classrooms.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered with groups having designated areas to eat and play. Eating areas will be cleaned and sanitised before and after use.
- There will be very regular handwashing during sessions and before entering or leaving different areas of the school.
- Toilets will be allocated to each group with regular timetabled visits to avoid cross over with children from other groups. (Unless in the case of emergency!)
- There will be additional cleaning throughout and at the end of the day. A full deep clean of all areas will take place once per week.
- All children will have their own seat both at the table and on the carpet.
- All children will have their own resources e.g. pencil, whiteboard, pens etc, which will only be used by them and kept in their own tray in their designated classroom area.
- Shared toys and resources will be chosen carefully and only those that can easily be cleaned regularly will be available. These will not be shared with other groups; each group will have their own designated resources.
- Staggered drop off and collection times, at the school gate near the office, will be allocated to each group to ensure social distancing and reduce the number of people entering the school site.
- Only one parent/carer should accompany their child for drop off and pick up and must adhere to social distancing measures. Only the Southfield Close entrance will be used for drop off and collection and the one way path system must be used to minimise contact.
- Children will not be able to bring anything into school from home. Reading books etc. will not be sent home each day.

- Bikes and scooters cannot be left on site.
- Please ensure your child wears clean clothes each day (non-uniform), along with coats and shoes that children can manage as independently as possible. Shoes without laces should be worn if at all possible.
- All children will be provided with a packed lunch, as we are unable to provide hot lunches. These must be ordered at the beginning of the week but your child will be able to bring a packed lunch from home if you prefer.

### **Critical Key Worker Childcare Provision**

Since the school closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> March we have been providing care for children of critical keyworkers (as defined by the government) who have no other option for childcare. **From the 2<sup>nd</sup> June (school will be closed to all children on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June for deep cleaning and staff training) we will still be able to offer this but because of staffing constraints, due to have more children in school and to allow for cleaning, we now have to change this offer and will only be able to offer care during set times throughout the day and will not be able to provide Breakfast Club provision.** To ensure we can keep children socially distanced and meet the government guidance of children being within a designated 'bubble' of children and staff, I now have to ask parents to choose the group with the most suitable drop off and collection times. This place will then be available for your child each day, but you do not need to send your child in on days that childcare is not required. It will not be possible to change the group once your child has joined that 'bubble'. The group timings are as follows:

- 8.45am to 2pm (1pm on Friday afternoon for deep cleaning)
- 9.15am to 2.30pm (1.15pm on Friday afternoon for deep cleaning)
- 9.45am to 3pm (1.30pm on Friday afternoon for deep cleaning)

I appreciate this may be very difficult for some families but please be assured I have done everything I can to provide an offer that can help as much as possible. Dependant on how many children do return to school and the need for critical key worker places, we may be in a position to review this but we will need to keep this system in place until at least the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> June. There will be a limit of 15 places in each group. Please can parents contact the office to let us know you need as soon as possible from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May onwards. If you do not need a place immediately or your circumstances change during the term please contact us to discuss how we might be able to help.

The safety measures detailed above must also be adhered to by the children and parents/carers of critical keyworkers.

Thank you once again for your continued support; I appreciate there is a lot for you to consider and I hope the provision we are able to provide meets your needs. It has been extremely difficult to plan. If you do have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us either by email, [northfield@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:northfield@eastriding.gov.uk), or telephone and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Sam Woolhouse  
Headteacher

[www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk](http://www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk)