

Ladysmith Federation

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Monday 15th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all staying fit and healthy. I thought I would update you on how re-opening to more children in the reception classes has been going. We have had around 40 of the 90 children in and they have been amazing in so many ways. It's great to have them back on site and they are a credit to their parents.

Although things are a little different, the friendships and relationships with their adults give stability and consistency. We have been able to sustain our philosophy of learning through play by quarantining items like books and larger play items, soaking smaller items in disinfectant daily and by increasing our cleaning regime. So far, so good!

Parents have also been brilliant at adapting and the staggered starts and finish times, one way systems and drop off zones are also working well.

As you will know from previous correspondence, this is your last opportunity to take up a place in school this academic year. You will know which pod your child has been assigned from previous communication. As a reminder these are the start and finish times:

- **Red Squirrels** and **Turquoise Squirrels** (8.45 until 3pm, Wednesday at 12.15)
- **Orange Rabbits** and **Blue Rabbits** (9am – 3.15pm, Wednesday at 12.30)
- **Yellow Hedgehogs** and **Purple Hedgehogs** (9.15am – 3.30pm, Wednesday at 12.45)

What if I do not want my child to return to school at the moment?

You do not have to accept the place, but once you have declined the place, you will not be able to send your child in for the rest of this term. Once you have consented we will then expect your child to attend school every day with the exception of Wednesday afternoon, when the school will be closed for cleaning at lunchtime.

What if my child has Special Educational Needs or a Disability?

The procedure does not necessarily relate to children with Special Educational Needs as we understand that they may need to have a graduated or phased return to school or have other specific health needs that prevent them from attending school. Please contact us if we have not already been in contact with you to discuss this.

What if my child needs to go to FISH before and/or after school?

For those who require wraparound care before and after school from FISH, your child will need to attend school as part of the Key Worker Group. If this has changed, and you no longer require a place in the Key Worker Group, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make sure we have the correct staff to pupil ratios.

In sending your child back to school, you are agreeing to the following:

- Not sending your child to school if he/she or any member of your household has symptoms associated with corona virus
- Making sure that you all wash your hands when you leave the house
- Avoiding public transport where you are able to. If used, to follow the guidance issued. Walking and cycling are very much encouraged.
- Only one parent accompanying your child to and from school
- Entering by the designated gate and using the designated spot for drop off
- Following the one-way directions around the school site and not entering the building unless at a pre-arranged time
- Maintaining social distancing on site
- Providing your child with a named bottle of water
- Not allowing your child to bring anything additional into school, other than a coat, fruit snack and lunch (if not having a free school packed lunch)
- Washing your child's clothes on return home after school
- Minimising contact between your child and others outside the home and in line with Government recommendations

What to do if you wish to accept the place:

If your child is already in school, we will assume that attendance will continue.

If you wish your child to return for the first time on the 22nd June, you will need to provide your agreement to the points above by going into your Parentmail account, clicking on "Payments", then "Shop" then add "Agreement to return" to your basket. Then click on your basket, provide your consent to say that you agree with the above guidelines and click complete. There is no cost it is simply the easiest way to confirm obtain your consent.

What to do if you do not want to accept the place:

If you do not want your child to return to school just yet, please do **not** follow this process and simply do nothing. Please note that if you arrive at school next week and have not provided your consent, your child will not be on the register and therefore will not be able to start back at school.

When do I need to let you know?

We have a deadline of **Wednesday 17th June** if you wish to take up the place. We know that this is a short timescale but hope you will understand!

As always, please contact us at infant.admin@ladysmithfederation.net . Either myself or Fran Collinge are happy to talk to you about these arrangements or anything else connected to your child's wellbeing and education.

Kind Regards,

Emma