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Newsletter 21/07/21

Dear Parents,

It's the end of a very long and complicated year. We have been beset by absences and Covid-related closures again this half-term and I thank you for your continuing cooperation and patience throughout the year.

I must also thank the hard-working staff of Firs for their dedication in not only their own work, but covering that of others. Our Deputy Headteachers were wonderful in my own recent absence due to a close family bereavement.

We are sorry that, yet again, we couldn't give the Year 6 pupils the end of year they deserve, and plans are afoot to invite them back when they can all be together one evening in late September. We'll be in touch.

We really hope that things are easier for all our families, old and new in September. Below are the plans as they stand. Have a safe and restful summer.

### AUTUMN TERM 2021

**Term Starts: Monday 6 September**

*(Thursday September 2 and Friday 3 September are training days)*

TRAINING DAY 3 FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

**Half Term: Monday 25 October 2021 to Friday 29 October 2021**

TRAINING DAY 4 MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER- SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

**Term Ends: Friday 17 December 2021**

September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6 X	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

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### TIMINGS OF THE DAY

#### START

- **All Gates will open at 8:40am**
  - Years 4, 5 and 6 enter through the gate at the top of Dreghorn Road.
  - Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 enter via the main playground.
- **Doors will be open for all pupils between 8:45am and 8:55am— Registration is at 8:55am**
  - Pupils arriving after 8:55am are late.

#### END

- **Reception Pupils will be handed back to parents at 3:15pm from the main playground\***
- **Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will be handed back to parents at 3:20pm from the main playground\***
- **Year 3 and Year 4 pupils will be handed back to parents at 3:30pm from the main playground\***
- **Year 5 and Year 6 pupils with an electronic or handwritten permission slip (signed in September) are allowed to exit from the top gate independently. All other Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be handed back to parents at 3:30pm from the main playground\***

\*End of Day Notes

1. Lessons end five minutes before the times stated. Pupils will need to be organised and ready. Walking to the playground takes time, so please allow an additional 5 minutes 'buffer' time.
2. Only Y5 and Y6 pupils will be authorised to exit independently through the top gate – all other pupils must be collected. Talk to the school's pastoral team if this presents any issues.



3. A separate email with a link to permission slips will be emailed to Year 5 and Year 6 parents in September. **Every child will need fresh permission slips – they are annual.**
4. Many Year 5 and Year 6 parents signed the slips last year and then met their child in the streets or nearby. This was useful.
5. All other pupils will only be handed over to an approved adult. A password system is in place for irregular collections by adults not listed on pupils' records. Our safeguarding duties mean we must question adults sometimes, please don't be offended.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

- There is ONE opening time – 7:40 to 7:45
- Places are prioritised for:
  - Pupils who attended breakfast club from January 2021
  - Families where parent / parents need to get to work on time
  - Parents and children who'd benefit from the additional support of breakfast club
  - Pupils in receipt of pupil premium
- A booking form and acceptance of Terms & Conditions will be needed in September – a separate email will be sent.

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

From September 2021, school will:

- Ensure that the programme of clubs for each term is published at least one week before the application forms go out – so children and parents can make an informed choice.
- Make application forms predominantly electronic (with a small supply of paper copies available) and email / text links to parents at the same time.
- Remove 'first come, first served' element as the key selection criteria, but track the electronic replies carefully to see when they are completed and returned.
- Set a clear deadline for completed applications that gives plenty of time.
- Covid restrictions permitting, increase the maximum number of participants able to join each club, in line with statutory guidance at primary school level and the rules of any individual sports.
- Extend the range and type of clubs available.
- Make the rules for participation, conduct, and attendance explicit at the application stage.
- Inform all applicants whether or not they have gained a place and, if not, whether they will therefore be prioritised next time.

### **LATE ARRIVALS and COLLECTIONS**

Punctuality is an essential skill. Our late arrival and late collection procedures resume in September 2021.

- A pattern or frequent late arrivals without reasonable explanation will result in a meeting with a senior member of staff.
- Late arrivals are recorded on the register.
- Parents are required to sign pupils in when arriving late – unaccompanied pupils present a safeguarding issue.
- We request parents contact the school as soon as possible if they are unable to collect their child at the correct time.
- We consider a collection to be 'late' ten minutes after pupils are dismissed.
- Our main gates close at 3:50pm, after which time pupils will be supervised inside the building and collecting adults will be required to sign pupils out.
- A pattern or frequent late collections without reasonable explanation will result in a meeting with a senior member of staff.

# UNIFORM

Our relaxation of uniform policy ends in September 2021. All pupils are expected to wear the correct school uniform and have the correct equipment for school.

## DAILY

- School jumper or cardigan – green, school logo optional
- A white polo shirt or collared shirt
- Black or grey trousers, skirts or dresses
- Green checked summer dresses
- Grey, white or black tights or socks
- Plain black shoes (not trainers)
- Black, green or white headscarves

## PE INDOOR

- A plain, white PE T-Shirt
- Plain black shorts, joggers or leggings
- Black PE pumps (or trainers when advised)

## PE OUTDOOR

- Plain black jogging bottoms
- Plain black, green or grey sweatshirt (not hoody)
- Trainers

## OUTDOOR WEAR

- A warm and waterproof coat (not hoody)
- Gloves and hats for cold weather
- Sun cap for hot weather

## HYDRATION

- A named, reusable water bottle – washed at home regularly

## BOOK PROTECTION

- A school book bag or suitable equivalent



Put your child's name in everything and check it doesn't wash out

We have tried to keep uniform as cheap, readily available and as practical as possible

Hoodies sometimes get in the way during PE lessons, so we ask for sweatshirts – hats and gloves can be worn if cold but outdoor lessons take place

Trainers are more suitable for some but not all PE

Trainers are NOT suitable daily wear

Football shirts and slogan T-Shirts are not allowed for PE, even if they match the colour requirements

There are enough non-uniform days for pupils to wear other clothing on

I will write and text again from the week beginning Monday 30 August and update you with regards to the situation with the national response to the pandemic.

I really hope we can get back to normal. In the meantime, take care.

Yours sincerely,

*D. Shakeshaft*

Mr D Shakeshaft

HEADTEACHER