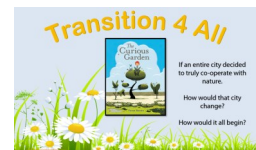




## WELCOME BACK!

We all hope you had a lovely summer holiday. It's great to have the children back in school and they have settled really well into their new classes. Class teachers will be sending out a newsletter introducing their team and their plans for the year. We'd like to welcome our new children and their families who will be joining Fairfields over the next few weeks.

During the first few weeks of term the classes will be working on our 'Transition for All' part of the curriculum. This focuses on building relationships with the children and finding out what motivates and interests them. Clear structures and routines are introduced and the outcomes from your child's EHCP are layered into learning. This ensures we have a great foundation to build curriculum learning on.



### Illness

We would like to continue to be extra vigilant with illness. When deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school, please ask yourself:

- Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home and consult your GP as appropriate.
- Does your child have an illness that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
- Would you take a day off work if you had this illness? If so, keep your child at home.

If your child becomes poorly during the school day, we will contact you and ask you to come and collect them as soon as possible.

### Safeguarding

All our staff wear a black staff lanyard with their ID badge and if they are new to you or your child we encourage them to introduce themselves. If you do not know the member of staff who has come to collect your child, you are welcome to ask them to show you their ID. Please can we ask that when you come into school you go to the main reception and sign in.

### Home School Communication

Your child will have a home school book as a way of communicating between home and school. Members of your child's class team will write in the book 3 times a week, unless there is something additional you need to know. If there is anything urgent the class will phone you. Teachers will still be contactable via email. Due to their teaching commitment in class and their workload, teachers will aim to respond to emails within 2 days, during working hours. If there is something important you need to discuss with a teacher, please phone the school office and they will inform them for you. If it is urgent, and the teacher is unavailable, this will be passed on to a member of the leadership team.

### No Smoking

I'd like to remind you that we are a No Smoking school. Please can you not smoke on the school premises, including the car park. This includes vaping. Thank you.



## Transport



For the majority of children, school transport is now running quite smoothly. If you have any problems or queries regarding your child's transport, please contact school transport directly. Please let us know if you are finding things challenging and we will support you in working with school transport to get this sorted.

The contact details for SEN Transport are: 01604 526449

[SENTransport.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:SENTransport.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk)

## Chewies

We know some of the children require chewy toys to help them with their sensory regulation. If your child does use a chewy, please can you provide one to be used in school. If possible please can the chewy be on a lanyard with a safety release clasp.



This is to prevent it being caught and pulled, resulting in an injury. This will be added to your child's positive behaviour support plan.



## Ear Defenders

We know that some of the children need to wear ear defenders at certain times of the day. Occupational Therapy advice is that while ear defenders are useful they should only be used for short bursts of time. If your child needs ear defenders, please send them into school. This will be added to your child's positive behaviour support plan.

## Outside Learning

Outside learning is a really important part of our provision in school. It would be great if we could have a waterproof coat and a pair of wellies for your child in school. The best thing for the children is a waterproof onesie. This ensures they keep dry while enjoying their learning outside, whatever the weather. If you are able to purchase one for your child, please buy one that is oversized, as this will ensure it can be used for multiple years in school. Please can these be sent in, clearly named. We do have a few resources children can use in school but we unfortunately don't have enough for everyone.



## Sensible Footwear

I would like to remind you of the importance of ensuring that your child wears sensible footwear to school. Proper footwear is essential for your child's safety, comfort, and overall well-being throughout the school day. Sensible shoes help prevent injuries and provide adequate support during physical activities. Please ensure your child wears closed-toe shoes to protect their feet from potential injuries. It is important that they have sturdy shoes that fit securely and comfortably.

Please can I ask that your child does not come to school in flip flops or Crocs as these shoes can pose safety hazards and are not suitable for school. If you find it difficult for your child to wear certain shoes due to sensory issues, please get in touch.



## Snacks

We are a healthy eating school. We will be providing fruit and squash for the children at snack time. If you would like your child to have anything additional to this, please send it in. We are a **nut free school** so please don't send anything with nuts in it due to the allergies of pupils and staff. Thank you



## Evidence for Learning—Family App

Our Evidence for Learning Family App is a great way for you to see what learning your child has been up to at school. This can be downloaded on either an Android or Apple device. Once you have downloaded this, please let us know and we will send you your log in details. Teachers will share a piece of evidence with you at home once a week. It would be lovely if you're able to add a comment to what you have seen or even share something your child has done at home.



## Parent App

Our Parent App is the way we share information with you. We use this to give you updates or let you know things in an emergency e.g. if the school is closed. It's important that if you have downloaded the app you have your push notifications switched on. Where we can we will also send out information so you receive it as an email too.



## Free School Meals

As you know 'Schools are now required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils on roll at a school to ensure they are not put at a substantial disadvantage in relation to accessing meals where appropriate. This includes disabled pupils who are eligible for free school meals. Schools are required to make such adjustments as are reasonable to enable such pupils to access their free school meal entitlement'. We now have a system set up for this in school, and if you meet our criteria you will be contacted by the school office. Once arrangements are put in place, this will be reviewed at the child's annual review.



The school the child is attending will automatically get a **pupil premium** amount if the child is eligible for free school meals. You can apply below for **free school meals** if you are in receipt of certain benefits and they attend a school in West Northamptonshire. The qualifying Benefits are:

- Universal Credit (annual net income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying)

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/schools-and-support/free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium>

## Changes and Updates

We ask that all parents and carers keep us informed of any changes related to their child. This include changes of address and contact details, or to their child's condition, treatment or medication. If these changes are significant, please contact a member of the leadership team so this can be discussed with you. It is vital that we always have the most up to date information about your child. It is also important that would let us know in advances if there are any changes to who is picking your child up from school.

We are really looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

**Lesley Elder - Headteacher**  
[head@fairfields.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:head@fairfields.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

## Dates for the Year.

We have been asked to share dates with you all with as much notice as possible. Below are the scheduled dates for the year. They are all be confirmed nearer the time. Please keep an eye on the Parent App for updates.

### Coffee Mornings

- Thursday 3rd October — 9.30am - 11.30am
- Tuesday 28th November — 9.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday 30th January — 9.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday 20th March— 9.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday 15th May — 9.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday 26th June — 9.30am - 11.30am

### Parents Workshops

Sleep Right Workshop—Thursday 14th November @ 9.30am

### School Celebrations—Parents Invited

- Harvest —Friday 18th October
- Riverbank and Meadow Christmas Production — 16th and 17th December
- Woodland and Treetops Christmas Production—10th, 11th and 12th December
- Stay and Play— Friday 7th February
- Easter — Thursday 24th & Friday 25th April
- Sports Week—19th—23rd May
- End of Year Celebration Assemblies — Riverbank: 17th July, Meadow: 18th July, Woodland: 21st July, Treetops: 22nd July

### Parents Evenings

- Parent's evening—23rd October & 6th November
- Celebration Evening—Wednesday 5th March

### School Events

- Outside Learning Day— Friday 11th October
- Light and Colour day—8th November
- School Photos—8th November
- Children in Need Day—Friday 15th November
- Purple Sock Day (International Day of People with Disabilities) - 3rd December
- Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day—Friday 13th December
- Chinese New Year—31st January
- World Book Day — Thursday 6th March
- Eid day—Thursday 3rd April
- Water/Maths day—Thursday 3rd July

# Attendance



**Our new attendance policy is now in place and being followed. We wanted to remind you of some the steps we will take if your child is absent from school and you have not notified us.**

## **Absence**

Parents must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day by 9.30am or as soon as practically possible, by calling the school office team. Parents must notify on each day of absence or inform school of when the child is scheduled to return. Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment. Parent can do this by phoning or emailing the school office or by notifying their class teacher.

## **Unexplained absence**

Where any pupil we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the school will:

- Call the pupil's parent on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If the school cannot reach the parent, they will try all of the pupil's emergency contacts.
- If we receive no correspondence by the morning of day 2 a home visit will be carried out. If unable to make contact we will consider making a referral to MASH or the Police
- Call the parent on each day that the absence continues without explanation, carry out additional home visits and call siblings settings if appropriate, to make sure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer and/or social care if they are involved with the family
- Where appropriate, offer support to the pupil and/or their parents to improve attendance
- Identify whether the pupil needs support from wider partners, as quickly as possible, and make the necessary referrals e.g. open an EHA

Our school will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

**Notices to improve** - If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, the school may offer a notice to improve to give parents a final chance to engage with support. **Penalty notices** - The headteacher (or someone authorised by them), local authority or the police can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice.

## **Absence due to exceptional circumstances**

The Headteacher may only grant leave of absence for exceptional circumstances.

### **Examples of circumstances NOT considered as exceptional**

- Holidays abroad for the purpose of visiting a sick relative, excepting where that person is seriously/terminally ill. Medical evidence may be requested.
- Holidays taken in term time due to lower cost/parental work commitments

Please remember to complete the '**Request to authorise absence from school due to exceptional circumstances**' form which can be found on our website or can be requested from the office.

As a school we have a responsibility to monitor children's attendance in school and respond when pupils are persistently absent. At Fairfields we want to have a partnership with our parents and do this in a supportive way.