



Executive Headteacher: Dr C Wilson  
Associate Headteacher: Mrs L Wood  
Fir Tree Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2RA  
Tel: 01635 42129 Fax: 01635 230484  
Email: [office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone has had a restful weekend, as always time is flying, and we are already mid-June. As mentioned in previous letters the return to school (Phase 1) is now in action and has been successfully implemented at the school.

As I write there has been no guidance issued by the government as to when years 2, 3 4 and 5 are to return. They had previously said that they would like all years back before the end of the school term, however they have said this week that schools should admit further pupils if they have the capacity to do so, so we remain open at present for **priority year groups Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6 and key worker and vulnerable pupils.**

For EYFS (Nursery & Reception), Years 1 and 6 and AS Resource pupils the school is open **Mondays – Thursdays** with Friday being used for staff planning, reviewing the week for future plans and a deep clean. We have staggered start and finish times to limit congestion and contact.

Across the school the children have been organised into groups of **up to 15 children**. The children in each of these **'bubbles'** are based in a classroom they are familiar with and have access to outside through a door specific to them. The staff working with each of the 'bubbles' remain with the children across the whole school day/week, including arriving at school and during break times.

**We have planned carefully for the staffing, organisation and health and safety of the bubbles.**

I expressed that I would write to you in mid-June to potentially look at accepting further children into school within the priority groups (Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6). If you feel that your circumstances and views have now changed and that you would like your child to return to Fir Tree within these year groups, please contact the school office email [office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org) by **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 12pm**. We will look at numbers alongside our current provision and risk assess the staffing, organisation and health and safety of the bubbles and provision.

We have some questions for parents of pupils in **Years 2, 3 4 and 5 in a short survey** that we would like you to complete about a return to school for your child. We really would appreciate you completing this by **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 12pm**. Completion of this will help us plan the next phase of opening. Once all parents have replied, more detailed information will be sent in due course. It is **imperative** you reply to let us know whether you would definitely send your child back to school or not. **Please click on the link below to access the survey:**

[Fir Tree Survey for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5](#)

If you are the parents of a key worker child in any year group and your circumstances have changed and you would like your child to attend school, please do contact the school office.

Once we have a plan, we will communicate to parents as soon as possible



This week's assembly title is '**Smile it is Summer**'. You can use/adapt some of the ideas from the assembly below to talk about the benefits and importance of smiling. Remember, this assembly is optional.

<https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/3535/smile-its-summer>



### Staying Safe On-Line

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:



- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net-aware (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

### Ideas for free or cheap play ideas!

- Balloon tennis
- Memory games, also known as Kim's Game– using a tray. Place items on a tray, use a minute timer and then cover the items. See how many items you can remember.
- Design your own game. Perhaps based on a favourite game, your own version of snakes and ladders – stairs and slides!
- Make a den – inside or outside
- Using a bubble wand pop bubbles – great exercise too
- Make playdough – <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe>



I'm conscious that there is lots of information in this letter today, but I hope you feel that you are being kept informed and that you are involved. As always please do not hesitate to get in contact with us if you have any questions or queries. **Please keep up all your hard work and support, we are all in this together.**

I will end with my **positive quote for the week.**  
Wishing everyone a lovely week ahead!

Best wishes



Mrs L Wood  
**Associate Headteacher**

