



SOUTH FARNHAM SCHOOL
MENIN WAY FARNHAM SURREY GU9 8DY
Headteacher: Mrs Claire Donnachie
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Wednesday 1st July 2020

Dear Parents,

Since I last wrote to you, our staff have been working hard with the return of Reception and Years 1, 5 and Year 6, in addition to our keyworker children. Despite the Government's 'about turn', we have been looking at every opportunity to get all children back to school safely before the summer holiday (including hiring marquees and toilets). Unfortunately, under the current guidelines, this will not be possible. Some of you have asked why we have not brought the children in on a part time or rota basis, however, the Government's Planning Guide, states that, 'schools should not plan on the basis of a rota system, either daily or weekly'. Similarly, parents have asked if Year R, 1 and/or 6 could be sent home a week early to allow other year groups to return. As the Government has identified Year R, 1 and 6 as priority groups this is also not allowed. We know this is disappointing for some parents. Nationally, only 30-40% of children in priority year groups are attending school. At South Farnham, attendance is over 90%. Throughout this pandemic, all decisions have been taken with the safety of our children, parents, staff and the wider community in mind. As much as we would like to bring more children back, we must learn from Leicester and we must *Stay Alert*.

We understand how important it is for the children's mental wellbeing to have social interactions with their peers and teachers before the end of term and to feel some sense of 'closure' in their current year group. Therefore, we would like to invite children from Year 2, 3 and 4 to a class get together before the summer holidays arrive.

Year 2 parents have already received information about the *story and play* session with the Year 2 class teachers on Friday 10th July and Wednesday 15th July.

For Year 3 and 4 we are offering the choice of the following sessions:

Session	Time
Tuesday 14 th July	3:30-4:15
	4:30-5:15
Thursday 16 th July	3:30-4:15
	4:30-5:15

Please note that the session will be held outside and, therefore, is weather dependent. We are fully prepared to reschedule if necessary.



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Your child is welcome to attend a session on both dates and the teachers will be delighted to see them. They will lead the class in a game before enjoying a chance to play. Due to government guidelines for schools, we are able to host 15 children per group and will therefore need to split the classes in half. In order to accommodate friendships for these sessions, we kindly ask that you sign up to a slot using the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/years-3-4-end-of-term-play-sessions-tickets-111795770158>

In order for the sessions to run smoothly, we ask that you arrive at the correct time and collect promptly. We also request that you use the following entrance and exit points; Year 3 via the right hand side of the building (see map below) and Year 4, via the double yellow doors to the left of the building (see map below). These will be sign posted for your convenience. During the drop off and pick up times, we ask that only one parent is present and that you follow social distancing guidelines where possible. Unfortunately, we cannot have parents waiting on school grounds during the social sessions.

We hope you will welcome this opportunity for your child to see classmates and their teacher before moving on to their new year group in September and look forward to seeing as many of the children as possible.

Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has committed to all school pupils in all year groups coming back full-time in September and we are waiting for guidance on safety measures to be published. At South Farnham, we will not let any of our children lose out as a result of Covid-19. Our outstanding staff team will continue to support every child's mental, social and physical well-being as well as identifying, and closing, any gaps in their learning.

Best wishes,

Claire Donnachie

Headteacher

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
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South Farnham Educational Trust
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Company Registration Number 07652902 (England and Wales)



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