

18 June 2021

Dear Parents,

About **Child Protection**. I thought it might be useful to explain our procedures as I know it has been a topic of conversation recently between some parents.

At Fosse we have a robust Child Protection policy (on the website) and three Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Baumhauer, Miss Ovenden and me. Next term Mrs Bailey, our new Learning Support Teacher is also be a DSL and Miss Sands in Early Years will be training to become a DSL. Mr Larry Ridges is the school's Child Protection Governor. Safeguarding children training is always on the agenda for the three inset days the staff have each year, to make sure everyone is aware of any new information and every staff member has a hard copy of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* document that the Government update most years. Staff know that any concern, however small must come to me or another DSL.

In common with all places of education there is a chain of events that happens should anyone at school have a concern about a child. A 'green form' is filled in by a member of staff with the concern and that is given to me, or another DSL in my absence. We then record what action is taken and who is involved in any action. Often I will phone the Kent Safeguarding Team for advice, no names are used at this point. Over my fifteen years as a Headmistress, I have dealt with probably four matters that required outside agencies, and had about thirty conversations with the local authority safeguarding teams for advice. This advice is most usually to speak to the child's parents and is quickly resolved.

While I will tell a member of staff when their concern has been dealt with, these matters are always totally confidential, not shared with a teacher unless essential for the child concerned. Other than one call which has been deemed malicious by the police and social services. Serious concerns are rare, and always fully investigated by the local authorities.

In the **Kent Tests** we had an 82% pass rate this year, (the state school average is not yet known but last year was 26/27%). More importantly, all our Year 6 children now know which school they are going to and these include Tonbridge Wells Boys Grammar, The Skinners Boys Grammar, Weald of Kent Grammar, Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls, Trinity School, and of the independent schools: Walthamstow Hall, Bethany School, Woldingham, St Edmunds School Canterbury, Sackville and Woodbridge School in Suffolk. Some children take the Kent tests but choose to go to independent schools so that is eleven different schools for thirteen children! Every child at Fosse is an individual and staff work with parents to find the right school for each. Now our soon-to-be Year 6 children are looking at their options for next year and we will be looking at the Cambridge university interactive computerised assessment system (InCAS) that we carry out each year to have an objective view of how well children are progressing.

All the children from Year 2 to 6 take these each June and they feed into your end of year reports. Most events are still planned to run as I explained last week. The government has issued some more helpful advice: *Sports days can go ahead. In line with the rest of the system of controls, pupils and students must remain in their bubbles.*

Spectators must adhere to current social distancing requirements. Where events take place outdoors, spectators can gather in separate groups of up to 30 – the legal gathering limit. Multiple groups of 30 are permitted.

Prize Giving will be open to parents of Year 5 and 6 plus prize winners in the younger years, but as the marquee at Sackville is not able to have the sides open, and permitted inside numbers are still 6, this event will now be held in our school grounds.

Whole School Photograph - Strangely the photographers are happy to do class photographs next Thursday but not the whole school photograph. This is a shame as we had to miss it last year too due to Covid. What we will do is put a copy of all these pictures together on the staircase as a record of the year. Our earliest photograph there is 1931.

It was a treat to see our Year 3 Egyptians arrive at school today and our thanks go to Mr Long for inspiring the class by sharing his knowledge of this period in history.



Hoping the weather will smile on us for all the forthcoming events,

Best wishes,

Alison Cordingley.

Miss Alison Cordingley
Headmistress

Information for Little Fosse and Kindergarten

In line with government advice, I would just like to make you aware of a couple of changes to next week's events. We have ensured that both the Little Fosse and Kindergarten children and parents have one event to attend together.

Little Fosse stay and play – Tuesday 22nd June

To better suit parental need we have decided to adjust the timings, instead of parents arriving at 10am, we would like to welcome you to the outdoor playground between drop off and 10.30am. If this is not your child's normal session, please also arrive at this time, departing with your child after the event.

Sports Day - Wednesday 23rd June

Due to the fact we are holding a Teddy Bear's picnic on Thursday 24th June, we have decided to cancel the picnic after sports day. Parents of children attending their normal session this day, are welcome to come along and spectate from 10.30-11.00am, you will be directed where to go. We would kindly ask you leave promptly at the end of the event, if you wish to take your child at this point please ensure you book them out with Miss Matthews who will check them off the register.

If Sports Day does not fall on your child's normal session, please arrive at the school at 10.15 to ensure we can get them settled into their groups in a calm and organised fashion. For the duration of the event your child will remain under the supervision of the Early Years team, and will be dismissed to you once their races are complete.

On the day, if you notice your child having a wobble please rest assured the Early Years team will do all they can to comfort them, in the event they are inconsolable a member of the team will walk them over to you. This will be explained to the children prior to Sports Day starting.

Children will be required to wear their Fosse polo tops, navy shorts, trainers and if sunny, a sports hat and sunscreen. They will also need their named drinks bottle.

Whole School Photos

Kindergarten: If this is not your child's normal session we are able to accommodate them staying with us in the gap between the end of photographs and the Teddy Bears Picnic, at which point parents will return to supervise their children throughout the picnic event at midday.

Little Fosse: Due to the age and strict ratios for this group, any children attending photographs for whom this is not their normal session are required to return to their parents until the start of the Teddy Bears Picnic. While we understand this isn't ideal it is unfortunately unavoidable on this occasion.

If we are unlucky enough to have rain for any of these events, in line with Government guidance which prevent meeting indoors, these gatherings will be cancelled to safeguard the health of all adults and children involved. We will communicate this with you as soon as possible.

Diary Dates

Half term	Monday 31st May- 4th June
Sports Day	Wednesday 23 rd June
Whole School Photograph	Thursday 24 th June 10.00am
FA Campover	Friday 25 th June – CANCELLED
Year 6 trip to Biggin Hill	Friday 25 th June – AM only
11+ Session – Year 5	Saturday 26 th June – 9am-12pm
Summer Production – Yrs 3-6	Tuesday 29 th June – Matinee – 2pm
	Tuesday 29 th June – Evening Production – 6pm
	Wednesday 30 th June - Evening production – 6pm
11+ Session – Year 5	Saturday 3 rd July – 9am-12pm
Sports Assembly	Wednesday 7 th July
Prizegiving	Wednesday 7 th July – 2.30pm (Years 5 & 6 Parents only)
Leavers' Assembly	Friday 9 th July 1.15pm – (Year 6 Parents, Gazebo/Sportshall)_
Term Ends	Friday 9th July 2pm
11+ Holiday Sessions – Year 5	Monday 23 rd August - Friday 27 th August – 9am-11.30am
Term Starts	Thursday 2nd September 2021
FA AGM	Friday 17 th September 2021 – 9am
FA September Social	Saturday 18 th September 2021 (date change from calendar)
Individual School Photos	Tuesday 28 th September 2021
FA Pumpkin Treat	Friday 15 th October
Half term	Monday 18 October – 29th October