



FARNEY CLOSE SCHOOL

PARENTS' AND CARERS' NEWSLETTER – SUMMER TERM JUNE 2021 (No 1)

We at Farney Close are looking to produce half termly newsletters for parents and carers to further aid communication.

I hope that you have all managed to visit our new website which holds significant information on it – Our IT department have done us proud. Please be reminded that if there are policies that you cannot find on the website you can just get in touch and we will email or post them to you. Changes to numerous Policies have taken place this Spring Term and will continue to take place over the Summer term as well.

Let me start by thanking you for your ongoing support over this strange 18 months we have been living through. Thank you also to those of you that managed to complete our annual questionnaire. Your feedback is really important to us and helps us with plans moving forward. If any of you would like to see the results please do not hesitate to get in touch.

As we move through this term, we start by supporting our year 11s in securing their best possible results prior to their leaving on the 18th June. We wish them all the best and hope that they really enjoy the next stage in their lives. Each of them move onto further education with some staying on with us to access college with our support.

Our Primary project is steaming ahead, and we look forward to its formal opening at the start of the new academic year. The conversion of the building is well underway, and we have appointed a Primary School Teacher to work with this group. We are now actively seeking Teaching Assistants to complete this team. This unit will provide education for 8 children who will be in years 5 and 6.

The new position of Operations Manager, that Dawn Lashley has taken up, sees the SMT move from a team of 3 to 4. As you are aware, we have now appointed a Head of Education (James) who will be joining us in September. This will take the SMT to a team of 5. James joins us with significant experience of working with young people like ours, his specialism is English, but he will not be taking up a formal teaching timetable in any subject until he has settled into position.

With COVID not seemingly going away anytime soon, can I please remind people to adhere to the expectations in the school's latest COVID Risk Assessment. This can be found on the school's website. We continue to undertake lateral flow tests with all young people twice a week. Staff are also undertaking tests but at home. A positive test does not mean that you are COVID positive, but you will need to self-isolate and undertake a PCR test which will confirm either way – the PCR test is the result we respond to. We need to do all we can to keep each other safe - Your family and friends can order their own tests via the following this link - <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

We were hoping to be able to invite you all into school for this year's Summer day parents and carers' consultation. However, given the national situation re COVID, we have decided to undertake this virtually; similar to what we did at Christmas. To provide opportunity to do this the children will travel home on Thursday 15th July, leaving school at the end of the school day (4pm). You will then have the opportunity to ZOOM with your child's tutor and Link Worker either on Thursday between 4.30pm and 6pm or on Friday morning. The SEN Department will be undertaking ZOOM meetings on the Wednesday and Friday Morning. We will be in contact nearer the time with more details.

The Children are due back in school for Monday 6th September. Staff will be back in on the 2nd and 3rd September for two training days. The care team will be in contact with you to talk about your Summer break as well as gathering and sharing information.

General Information.

Safeguarding

We have a Safeguarding team at Farney Close that meet each week to discuss all issues surrounding ensuring that we keep our young people and staff safe.

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found on our School Website and we are always happy to provide you with a paper version should you wish one – just give us a call and we will pop it in the post to you. This Policy has been updated including changes put in place from

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 (KCSIE 2020).

Our Safeguarding Team comprises of:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Sara (Principal)

Deputy DSLs – Steve (Head of Care) & Becky (School Social Worker)

Other Safeguarding team members – Ray (Vice Principal), Sharon (SENCO), Sally (School Nurse) & Austin (Referrals and Inclusion Officer)

Governor responsible for Safeguarding - Carole Johns.

LADOs – Miriam Williams and Donna Tomlinson (0330 222 6450)

As of June 2021, are Directors & Governors are:

- Sue Deane (Chair)
- Carole Johns (Vice Chair)
- Martin Gibrill
- Jenny Bowry
- Mark Bennett (Governor)
- Nicki Bartholomew
- Barry Robinson
- Simon Lashley
- Sharon Radley (Staff Governor)
- Lester Speed (Staff Governor)

The five British Values are:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. We promote these values throughout our 24-hour day.

The following websites offer lots of general information:

Helpful Links:

Covid advice and support for parents and carers:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

Internet Safety

https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/internet-safety.htm?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=ad&utm_campaign=pp-online-safety

Young people's Mental Health support

[NHS England » Advice for parents, guardians and carers on how to support a child or young person if you're concerned about their mental health](#)

NSPCC

[NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

Childline - 0800 1111

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Action for Children

[Action For Children | Children's charity | For safe and happy childhoods](#)

Anti-Bullying Alliance

[Anti-Bullying Alliance | United against bullying](#)

Let me finish by thanking you all for your support and ongoing commitment to FCS. You know where I am if you want to talk.

**Kind Regards to you all
from Sara**

