

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School

Parents as Partners

www.bredhurst.kent.sch.uk

Newsletter 03.05.20

Dear parents,

I hope you are all well. I cannot believe that we are about to enter our 7th week on lockdown. It seems crazy doesn't it that we are still in this situation with no clear answers about when things will return to normal.

I am sure that many of you have heard rumours that schools will be reopening on 1st June. Currently schools have not been told the official date for when we will be reopening or even what it will look like when we do. Whilst we are expecting to be told to open schools from 1st June, this will probably be partial opening, to certain year groups to begin with and maybe for shorter days. As of yet we have not been given any guidance on when we will open, which year groups it will be for or how we are to maintain social distancing (has no-one in the government worked with a 4 year old!)

What I do need to reassure you of, is that once we have been given clearer guidance of when and how we will be expected to open we will let you all know. The most important thing to us is that whatever we do safety is paramount. Safety for children, safety for parents, safety for staff and safety for the wider community. This will be our starting point. As of yet a date for reopening remains unclear, but as soon as we know more we will inform you of how we will be managing the return to school.

This week has proved very challenging for many parents. I have never received so many emails from worried parents who have reported that their children are struggling. Behaviours are escalating, more battles over screen time are occurring, more tantrums are taking place and children are finding it increasingly difficult to focus on the learning. Having spoken to several of my Head Teacher colleagues the exact same patterns have been happening in their schools for their children and parents too. It seems that many children, nation wide, have reached the point where the uncertainty of when lock down will end and not seeing their friends and family has taken its toll on them.

If you are one of the parents who are in this situation – YOU ARE NOT ALONE- hundreds of parents are feeling the same pressures as you. Thousands of children are struggling. Please just give your child a hug, forget about the schoolwork – be their parent again. Play games with them, take time to listen to them, watch a film together (and do not feel guilty doing so). You need to think of your own mental health too. You cannot be there for them if you are also struggling.

As a family we have been putting ideas in a jar of all the things we are looking forward to doing after lock down. Most are really simple; visiting grandparents, having friends over for a BBQ, walking along the beach, visiting McDonalds! Once lockdown has ended we are going to select one a week and make sure we spend time together in a very different way. It is giving my children something positive to look forward to (as well as us) and making us all realise that this situation will end!

It is very difficult to be a parent and a teacher (and I should know!) You need to trust your instincts and know when your child has had enough and just need mum or dad and a cuddle. Do not beat yourselves up over what you are not doing. As I said last week, just think of all the incredible things you are doing and how well you have adapted to the world we are currently living in.

I will repeat my message from last week: if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by contacting your child's class teacher via their form on the class learning page. You can also contact me on headteacher@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk or Mrs Place on send@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk If you would like to speak with either of us, Mrs Place will be in school on Monday and I will be in school on Wednesday. Do not hesitate to call if you need to speak to us. I know that the class teachers would also be happy to call or speak to you and your child if they are really struggling.

Please do look on the school website for further information regarding how to support both your own and your child's mental health. Look after yourselves!

If you are a key worker and your child needs to attend school please could I remind you to let me know via email so that we can ensure we have the correct staff ratio for the children in attendance. If we have too many children arrive which we are unprepared for, it causes difficulties with resources (as we plan and print off the work for the children we are expecting) but also could leave us short staffed, which could mean that we are unable to keep the children in our care safe.

Finally, as Friday 8th May is a Bank Holiday, the school will be closed to all families on that day. We have added some VE day ideas on the school website for you to take part in with your children and hope that you have fun celebrating in a very different way. I know that several communities are coming together in a variety of ways, for example; by holding tea parties on their own front gardens. However you chose to celebrate this day, please do send me your pictures for the website and for the school twitter account.

We continue to miss both you and the children very much, the school is a very strange place with so few children in it. We all continue to look forward to the time when we can continue to work, play and learn together under the same building.

Until then, please continue to keep safe and well.

Warm regards,
Michelle Cox