

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School

Parents as Partners

www.bredhurst.kent.sch.uk

Newsletter 17.05.20

Dear parents,

I am writing this newsletter with a feeling of sadness this evening, as this Saturday should have been our May Day celebration. I have missed seeing the children: performing the pageant, dancing around the maypole and the crowning of the May King and Queen. Our May Day celebration has become such a tradition in Bredhurst and an intrinsic part of the school and this year it has been missed by so many within our community. My heart really goes out to both Henry and Lili-Ann who were due to be crowned May King and Queen 2020. Just because they did not have the crowning ceremony does not mean that those titles do not rightly belong to them both, nor do they mean any less. If you have not yet seen it Isobel (our May Queen from 2019) has sent a lovely message, which is on the home page on our school website

This weekend should also have marked the end of year 6's Key Stage 2 SATS examination. Some of the children will I am sure have been delighted not to have sat the tests, but for many of these children they have worked so hard throughout their primary education and do feel a sense of pride in sitting the SATS test and seeing how well they have achieved and how far their learning has progressed.

This week, there has been lots of speculation in the press regarding the re-opening of schools for years R,1 and 6 from 1st June and I am certain that you will have a number of questions regarding when and how the school will open safely and what this may look like.

Over the coming days we expect to receive even further guidance on how we can ensure that pupils, staff and their wider families are protected with appropriate measures. As a school we are working hard to establish a robust plan for the safety of all within the school and community.

These are the things we have taken into consideration based on what we have been told to date:

- How many pupils we can safely accommodate and how we would group them.
- Staff numbers
- Social distancing- which will be challenging for individual pupils
- The structure of the day including start and finish times
- What we should be teaching
- How we keep everyone safe from infection
- General set up of classrooms and the school environment

For these reasons our current plans (which could change according to advice from the government or KCC) is outlined below.

- The children from years R,1 and 6 will be in for mornings only as the teachers will be unable to plan for year groups not in school whilst planning and teaching those in school (see timetable below)
- The learning taking place in school will be based around maths and English
- We will have staggered start and end times to the school day.
- The children will have break times at staggered times.
- The children will be taught in year groups not classes
- They will work in groups in their class, they will stay with the same group of children for all their learning time to try to limit the amount of children they come into close contact with.
- The same work will be put online for the children who do not return to school to complete in their homes.
- The school will be thoroughly cleaned after the children have left for the day.
- All parents will drop off their children on the back playground and the children will be sent into the building via the back doors of their classrooms/hall.

- Parents will leave the school via the side gate and the front playground/main entrance – office staff will be able to be spoken with in the usual way from here.
- Parents will also collect their child at the end of the morning from the back playground.
- Each child will be given their own-labelled set of equipment, which will remain in school.
- The corridors will become one way.

The school we will be closed over half term so that the teachers are able to prepare the school as best as we can to ensure social distancing.

Year Group	Teacher	TA	Start time	End time	Room
6	Miss Essenhigh	Mrs Drewitt	9.00-9.15	12.00 – 12.15	Hall
1	Mrs Fisher/Mrs Green	Ms Duffree	9.15 – 9.30	12.15 – 12.30	Forge
R	Mrs Harvey	Miss Weatherstone	9.30 – 9.45	12.30 – 12.45	Fir Tree

Mrs Carey and Mrs Adamson will not be returning to school currently due to having to shield to keep vulnerable members of their families safe. It is for this reason that I will also be unable to attend school daily when we have a phased reopening.

All year 1 children will be with Mrs Fisher/Mrs Green, regardless of whether they have been taught in Fir Tree or Forge class since September.

If your child is staying for lunch the following will be their pick up times.:

Year 6 – 12.30 – 12.45

Year 1 – 12.30 – 12.45

Year R – 12.45 – 1.00

The school will continue to remain open to the children of key workers, this has not changed, in addition to the children in years R,1 and 6. It is imperative if you are a key worker and need to return to work, meaning your child needs to attend school that you email me on headteacher@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk the days that your child needs to attend. This in order for us to ensure we have the correct staff ratio for the children in attendance and to ensure we can maintain social distancing measures.

Although I would love to be able to reassure you that your children will be safe and social distancing will be maintained for the whole time that your child is in school, I would not be telling you the truth. Social distancing with children is inherently difficult; children gravitate towards each other, our classrooms are small and the children will come into closer contact to each other than the required 2m.

Please can I assure you that if you do not feel confident with your child returning to school then that decision will be your decision to make and you will not be fined for not sending your child to school.

We are working on plans for the rest of the year groups to return to school when the government deems it safe to do so. Our plans currently are that we do not have the capacity within our staffing or building for all the children to return to school for their normal timetable, which will mean some year groups will be in school for the mornings and some for the afternoons, we will await more guidance before we explain this further.

If your child is in year R,1 or 6 please email me on headteacher@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk by Friday 22nd May with your decision regarding your child returning to school. Please remember that the decision not to return to school at this point will not be subject to any challenge by the school or authorities and we accept that your views on this may change as more information becomes available.

If you have, any other questions feel free to contact me; I am very open to any ideas or suggestion regarding the phased re-opening.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support and understanding. I know that the home learning is not always easy - well done for those of you who are still persevering, remember that every little thing you do makes a difference. You need to be the parent to your child first and their teacher second. If they need a break, a hug or time out please give it to them, both your and their mental health will always come before the learning.

For the year 5 parents who may be starting to panic, we do not yet have any information regarding the Kent or Medway Tests for September 2020, currently both local authorities are still stating that you can register your child from 1st June – 30th June and no decisions have been made as of yet to the timing of the tests.

Please note the school will be closed to ALL children for the week beginning 25th May – Friday 29th June. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused, however this time is needed in order to get the school ready for opening on 1st June.

Please do continue to keep safe and well and as soon as I have any further updates, I will ensure that I notify you.

Mrs Michelle Cox