

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School

Parents as Partners

www.bredhurst.kent.sch.uk

Newsletter 24.05.20

Dear parents,

What a strange and rather stressful week it has been. Thank you to all the parents who have emailed me during the past week to confirm the arrangements regarding their child for the partial re-opening of the school. I know this has been a very difficult decision for several of you, particularly as we do not yet know exactly what is happening regarding the rate of infection. If you should change your mind regarding your child returning to school, we are completely understanding of this decision. Your child's and your family's health is more important than their learning, which we will ensure is caught up when we do return to a fully functioning school.

I need to ensure that all returning parents are aware of the protocol for the week beginning 1st June. I am aware that not all schools are choosing to re-open on that day, however as a school we have assessed our ability to re-open as safely as is possible on this day and are confident we can.

There will be changes for all the children upon their return with the school looking and functioning differently to how it was previously and we would really appreciate it if you could explain these changes to your child. All class teachers and teaching assistants will be in school during the half term to prepare resources and classrooms for the children's arrival on Monday.

The teachers will be videoing the new classrooms and uploading the videos to the school website so that the children will have an idea of what their classroom will look like before they arrive at school on Monday 1st June.

We will also be discussing with them the changes we have had to implement and the reasons for these changes. Upon their return, the main teaching will be focused on maths and English, but we will be balancing this with ensuring their mental health and well being is looked after.

The year 6 cohort will also have transition work as part of their curriculum as this is vital to the next stage of their learning.

It will be a learning curve for us all to begin with, but we need to remember everything we are implementing is for the health and safety of the children, staff and parents and we are still the same school, we just have some slightly different systems in place currently.

We are expecting that some children will find coming into school very daunting on Monday, we have put a link to a downloadable book on our website, which may help your child during this difficult time of transition. Both myself and Mrs Place will be on the playground on Monday 1st June to welcome both your child and you back into school and to help to reduce any anxieties.

Your journey and arrival at school

We are asking parents to enter the school via the back field entrance on The Street, between the times given for each class. Please maintain a 2m distance from other families returning to school. There should only be one adult bringing a child to school and if at all possible siblings should not be making this journey to reduce social contact. If you need to bring a sibling they must stay beside you, hold your hand or remain in their buggy.

This does not apply to the children of key workers, we are asking them to arrive at school by 8.45 as normal and enter the school via the main gate.

At school- the drop off

There will be a one way system in operation around the school site so ALL families are asked to walk around past the outside of the school building and exit the school via the main school gate on Hurstwood Road.

There will be cones placed on the background spaced 2m apart for parents to wait until their child is sent in.

Year 6 will be dropped off on the back playground between 9.00 and 9.15, they will be sent into the hall via the back hall doors.

Year 1 will be dropped off on the back playground 9.15 and 9.30, they will be sent into Forge classroom via the back door.

Year R will be dropped off on the back playground between 9.30 and 9.45, they will be sent into Fir Tree classroom via the back door.

All key worker children are asked to arrive at school by 8.45 at the latest via the main gate as has been the usual procedure.

Arrival at the classroom

Parents are asked to drop their children at the door to the classroom and if at all possible to communicate with the teacher via email. If this is not possible please maintain a 2m social distance and keep your conversation as brief as possible. If there is parent in front of you dropping off a child, please maintain a 2m distance- there will be marks on the playground to help you do this.

Once you have dropped your child off please leave via the main school gate- the school will have a one-way procedure in place.

Children will not be required to bring anything to school with them, except their water bottle (which should have their name on). Children will also need a sunhat, if the weather is warm- please apply sun cream before coming to school.

If your child is in year R or 1 or if your child is in year 6 and is entitled to a free school meal then a packed lunch will provided for your child. You may have the lunch to take home to eat or your child may stay at school to eat this. The collection time for any child staying in school to eat a school packed lunch will be 15 minutes after the class pick up time, should you wish for them to stay at school to have this – please see below.

There will be no book bags, no toys, comforters or PE kits required, apart for the children of key workers who are asked to have a sports type clothing with them daily

All children will be directed to wash their hands immediately on arrival.

Clothing

All children will be required to wear school uniform.

Staff and organisation

Children will be in 'bubbles'. This means your child will be in a class of no more than 15, with a familiar teacher and teaching assistant. The year 6 cohort will be in slightly larger bubble than this, which is why they will be using the school hall as their learning space.

This group of children will have different play times and lunchtimes and will mix as little as possible with any other adults or children in school.

If your child is in the key worker category and also falls within one for the year groups returning to school, the new guidance is that they will have to remain in one of the bubbles as we have to keep the bubbles separate.

As a parent you will need to choose which group you would like your child to be in. **Please be aware that if your child is taught within their own year group in the morning they will NOT be able to then go into the key worker group.** Your child also cannot be in their class bubble for some days and the key worker bubble for other days. I understand this will be extremely annoying and disappointing to some parents, however as a school I have to adhere to the guidance from KCC and the government.

Each bubble will have allocated toilets.

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

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. A zoom chat on Wednesday with Mrs Fisher and Mrs Green will be arranged for the year 1 children who have been taught in Fir Tree up until now. The code will be sent to each parent directly.

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

Year 6 – 12.30 – 12.45
Year 1 – 12.30 – 12.45
Year R – 12.45 – 1.00

Currently we are only able to provide a school packed lunch for each child.

I will be in school on Wednesday and Friday's, Mrs Place on Monday, Tuesday and Fridays. Should you wish to speak to a senior member of staff on Thursday, Miss Meade will be the point of contact. I will continue to be contactable by phone and email throughout the week as I will be working from home on the remaining days.

The school day

Children will be seated 2m apart as much as possible in the classroom and will be expected to remain at their desks, as much as is practically possible, in order to protect themselves and staff. They will be given their own resources to work with. (There will be no soft furnishings or toys that cannot be easily washed, so no playdoh, sand etc)

Lessons

The primary focus on returning will be around the personal, social and emotional well-being of children. It may be tricky for some of them to adapt to this new way of learning. The classroom will look different and no doubt there will be lots of questions to answer. We will be teaching them about the new protective bubble that they will be in. Once we have established these new routines and expectations we will focus on maths and English primarily and continue to put topic based learning on the website. We will endeavor to ensure there is continuity and consistency with the learning on line that has been set for parents who are keeping their children at home.

For year 6 in particular, this is supposed to be an exciting end of term but many of the things originally planned will simply not be able to happen at this point. We will be ensuring they have transition work and will be planning how we can ensure some of the activities they would usually be enjoying will be able to go ahead. We are currently considering an outside leavers service, amongst other things.

Hometime and collection

Parents will be asked to collect their children from the back playground, entering the site via the field gate, just as happened in the morning and queue 2m apart. Please follow the route out of school via the main gate and maintain 2m social distancing.

Timings

There will be a staggered start and end to the school day to maximise social distancing. School will be finishing earlier than normal in order to allow teachers to maintain on-line learning for the pupils, particularly as most of our teachers will be planning for at least 2 year groups as well as those children who are staying at home and to ensure they have some planning and preparation time. This will also

allow cleaners longer to clean the classrooms thoroughly. Please ensure you arrive and collect promptly to avoid clashing with another year group.

Breakfast and after school club

There will be no after school clubs.

Breakfast club will only be available for keyworker children.

Infection control

Children will remain in their bubbles at all times. This means that should anyone display any symptoms at all, such as high temperature, new persistent cough, loss of taste or smell the whole 'bubble' would have to self-isolate whilst a test was carried out for Covid 19. If this test came back negative, everyone could return to his or her bubble. If this test came back positive, everyone in this bubble, and his or her families would have to self-isolate for 14 days. If this happens, we would send further details. This is in line with the guidance from KCC and the government.

It is imperative that if your child is unwell in anyway, they remain at home.

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently and will be reminded of the importance of this. Only toys that can be easily washed will be available and children will be encouraged to work and play at their own desk. They will have their own set of pencils and any other equipment they may require.

Clean clothes will need to be worn every day.

Children will have their temperature taken if they feel unwell at all. Teachers and TAs will ensure that frequently touched items, such as door handles will be routinely cleaned throughout the day.

Children and staff are not required to wear any form of PPE, including masks, unless giving a child intimate care.

First aid- first aid will be administered by the class teacher or TA, if necessary. Each class will have their own first aid book and you will be informed if your child has required first aid.

We will endeavor to keep children 2m apart at all times, but social distancing even within their bubble will be very hard to implement and monitor.

School office

The school office will remain open but we ask that you visit this only if absolutely essential. If your message can be delivered via email this is preferable. If you do need to go to the school office, please do not enter the office, a member of the office staff will come out to speak with you.

Please ensure the school office has enough contact telephone numbers and that these are fully up to date.

Key worker children

Breakfast club will remain open to the children of key workers only. These children will continue to work within their key worker bubble and will not be able to move in between key worker and class bubbles due to keeping the bubbles as separate as possible to avoid cross infection. They will be taught by Miss Meade, Mrs Allen, Mr Peters and Miss Fenson. They can order a school packed lunch or bring their own lunch.

They will need to have a change of clothes for the afternoon activities – which will be art, craft and sports based. For the morning, they will need to be in school uniform.

These children will enter the school through the main gate and leave via the same gate. All key worker children will need to arrive at school by 8.45 to avoid different groups of children arriving at the same time.

Parents of keyworkers will therefore have to choose whether their child attend their year group in the given times outlined or remain in the key worker classroom. Children will not be able to swap from one provision to the other.

If you now wish to use breakfast club, as you believe you are a keyworker and you wish your child to attend the key worker group, please contact headteacher@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk in the first instance, so that we can ensure we have enough capacity.

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, 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.

All this is all subject to change in light of government advice. An announcement is expected on May 28th May, if the plans for re-opening the school changes according to this advice we will notify you via the school app.

11+ Test Information

For the **year 5 parents** (who may be starting to panic) we have some updated any information regarding the Kent Test for September 2020, please look on the Kent test website at www.kent.gov.uk for further information and up to date guidance. The Medway Test is currently going ahead under the usual conditions. You will need to register your child through each local authority if you are wishing for them to sit either of the tests.

Kent Test registration: www.kent.gov.uk 1st June – 1st July

Medway Test registration: www.medway.gov.uk 1st June – 29th June

I will be holding individual telephone consultations with parents of year 5 children to discuss the school view regarding your child and which type of school environment we deem they may be best suited to working in. I will send out a message regarding this once we have returned to school. In the meantime if you are unsure whether to register your child or not, please register as you can always change your mind at a later date and remove them from the test but you cannot add them onto the registration once it has closed.

Finally, please have a very well earned break – you all deserve it. You have had to be teachers, counsellors, mediators as well as parents this term. You have all done a fantastic job – make sure you and your children have rest and enjoy some time off from school based learning so you re refreshed and ready for the final term.

On this note, I am aware that the teachers, including Mrs Place, have had to work in a very different way this past term, they will be going into school; over the half term break to prepare classrooms for your children. Please do not contact them unless it is absolutely necessary over this period as they also need to have some time off with their own families. I will be contactable via email but will also be taking a break as this has been a stressful period and I also need to come back refreshed and ready for the new term. For this reason although I will be receiving emails I will not be replying to your emails immediately. Should you need to contact me urgently, or if you have a safeguarding concern, please ring on the school mobile number and I will endeavor to answer or return your call: 07745782649

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