

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School

Parents as Partners

www.bredhurst.kent.sch.uk

Newsletter 12.06.20

Dear parents,

I cannot believe that we have already reached the end of our second week back at school, the children who have returned have become much more used to the system and have all adapted to our new way of working incredibly well.

As we can see the massive impact it is having on not only their learning but on their mental health and well-being we would like to plan for a return to school for all pupils before the end of the Summer break. The guidance from the government is for school leaders to make their own decisions regarding the return to school. Our opinion is that as long as the children, their families and the staff are safe then for the children to return would be in the best interests of both the children and you as parents. Children need children. Parents need to be parents. Children returning would enable both of these to happen.

Our aim is to reopen the school to all year groups from the week beginning 29th June. In order for us to be able to plan for this we need to know whether you will be intending for your child to return by **Friday 19th June. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you do not wish for your child to return to school. Please email me on headteacher@brdhurst.kent.sch.uk by this date.**

These are the things we have taken into consideration based on the model we have already put in place for those children who have already returned are:

- How many pupils we can safely accommodate and how we would group them.
- Staff numbers
- Social distancing- which is challenging for children – but less than we thought it would be
- 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 depending on parental interest) is outlined below:

- The children from years R,1 and 6 will be in for mornings only as they are currently, in addition to these pupils we will be welcoming back children from years 3 and 5
- We will be welcoming back years 2 and 4 in the afternoons
- We will only be able to take back 15 children/year group, once we get over this number we may need to make different bubbles
- The learning taking place in school will be based around maths and English, as well as a PE session which will be based around our usual athletics program 'Ten Step'
- 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
- 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 in preparation for the second session of children arriving at school

- Each class bubble will use different toilets
- 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.

Once we have the numbers of child who will be returning we can put a proper plan in place regarding start and end times for each year groups. The children in years R,1 and 6 will also have a slight change to their start and end times in order for us to be able to accommodate the extra children.

Our plan will be based along the following structure although **this is only for guidance at this stage.**

| Approximate Drop Off Time | Year Group | Staff | Room | Approximate Collection Time |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 8.45 | 6 | Mrs Carey | Hall | 11.30 |
| 8.50 | 5 | Miss Essenhigh | Kemsley | 11.35 |
| 8.55 | 1 | Mrs Fisher/Mrs Green | Forge | 11.40 |
| 9.05 | 3 | Miss Meade | Hurstwood | 11.50 |
| 9.10 | R | Mrs Harvey | Fir Tree | 11.55 |

| Approximate Drop Off Time | Year Group | Staff | Room | Approximate Collection Time |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1.00 | 2 | Mrs Fisher/Mrs Green | Forge | 3.45 |
| 1.10 | 4 | Miss Meade | Hurstwood | 3.55 |

We will no longer be setting on line learning for when your child is not at school we expect them to have some downtime and be children and for you to be able to be mum and dad once again, not teachers. Should you choose to continue to keep your child at home during this time we will put some website such as bbc where you can still access age appropriate work for your child.

If you choose not to send your child to school once we reopen full all pupils, you will not be fined nor expected for them to return until you are happy with that decision. We know this has may be a difficult decision for several of you, particularly as we do not yet know exactly what is happening regarding the rate of infection. Should you change your mind regarding your child returning to school, we are completely understanding of this decision, however if you would like them to return after initially not

wishing them to then you will need to ensure you have emailed headteacher@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk and received a reply, you need to make the decisions which work best for your family.

The provision for our key worker children will currently remain as it is. However, as child minders are now able to have children we are very likely to be making changes to this provision. We also know that the children are faring much better working within their own class bubbles alongside their peers than in the mixed group setting. The children in this provision are also very unlikely to be taught by a teacher as the teachers will be teaching their year groups, this may become more of a child minding facility than a teaching provision if this provision continues to go ahead after 29th June.

Please be aware that children will NOT be able to move between the bubbles, if your child is taught within their own year group in the morning/afternoon 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.

From 29th June we are also aiming to increase the provision for our year 6 pupils to enable them to attend for longer days, in order for us to be able to give them the other opportunities they would normally have had at this point in the academic year. We are looking at extending this on Monday and Tuesday's initially, but we will inform you when this will take place. Currently the provision is as it has been for the last two weeks. I am delighted to let our year 6 pupils know that we have also managed to secure the bikeability for them for the week commencing Monday 6th July – Thursday 9th July. This will be based on 4 children per day for a whole day each. More information will follow regarding this.

Do not forget that the teachers are holding zoom catch up meetings, these are often advertised on the school website on their class pages. Mrs Green and Mrs Fisher were feeling rather lonely this week as only 1 child emailed to say they would be joining them on their zoom catch up.

Thank you to Mrs Bench for the social distancing vinyl floor and wall sticker that her company made and provided for the school (in the school colours), they look amazing!

Finally, thank you to all of you for your constant hard work and for staying motivated! It is not easy to motivate children to do school work when they are in their own environment with their parents as teachers. Just think for most of you the end is nigh! We do appreciate all your support and perseverance during this time.

Please continue to look after yourselves and stay safe,

Michelle Cox