

Dear parents/carers,

As you are doubtless aware, as of Monday 4th January 2021 all academies and schools in Medway and Maidstone were told to **close until further notice**. We are writing to provide you with the best information that we have available at present. Further updates will be provided as and when we are able. If you wish to read the statement from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, it can be found here:

[Education Secretary sets out school contingency plans for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-sets-out-school-contingency-plans-for-england)

Pupils who may attend

Quite rightly, we will be expected to make provision for two specific groups of pupils, as previously: those whose parents or carers are critical workers and those who are classed as vulnerable or have an Education & Healthcare Plan (EHCP)

For a full list of occupations which are classed as critical workers please follow the link:

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

Please note that we will only be able to make provision for pupils who fall into these two criteria. There will be no exceptions. We realise that this will be troublesome for some parents/carers, but we cannot start making individual arrangements in the interests of fairness, consistency and achieving the purpose of school closures (minimising social contact). Please be considerate and do not put us in a difficult position by asking us to accommodate your child if they do not fulfil the criteria, forcing us to come into potential conflict with you by saying no.

Please be aware that those children who do attend will be undertaking similar learning activities to those of their peers who are working at home. The purpose of the school closures is to minimise contact and therefore we will be providing the necessary staffing to provide supervision and care for pupils who do attend. This means that we will not be running a normal timetable, we will be delivering maths and English based learning in the mornings only. In the afternoons the children will not be taught. It is perhaps worth noting that the Secretary of State has been clear that this is an entirely different role for academies/schools and their staff. It is primarily about care, not education, so we would ask that these children do not come into school in their uniform but wear comfortable casual type clothes, which they can wear to the woods, outside and participate in physical exercise in.

If you believe your child falls into either of these groups and you are intending to send your child to the school during the period of closure, please ensure that you notify Mrs Cox on: headteacher@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk if you have not already completed the form or should your circumstances change.

Please take up this provision ONLY IF YOU REALLY NEED it, help to keep our school and community safe.

Remote/Home Learning

All pupils should undertake the remote learning that is provided for them on the school website. You will need to click on the Home Learning link where you will find your child's class. Their work will be in folders for them to access on their class pages.

We will update this work daily and be holding both live learning sessions daily for each class. For the first week the teachers will be available for you to contact them between 2.30 and 3.00 daily regarding your child's home learning. If you would like your child's class teacher to contact you please email them before 2.30pm on:

Mrs Harvey: claire.harvey@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Fisher: roberta.fisher@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Green: leanne.green@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
Miss Meade: rebecca.meade@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Carey: claire.carey@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
Miss Essenhigh: lucy.essenhigh@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk

Depending on the uptake of this, depends on how many day/week we will make this available. We may change to it being twice/week once children and parents have become more used to the new system of working.

You will be sent an email that will explain how to access the live learning sessions for your child. **Those in school will also be part of the live session as they will be in the classroom with the teacher. It is not optional for your child to attend these sessions.** We will be keeping an attendance register of these sessions which will form the basis of your child's English learning each day as well as their understanding faith and any extra learning sessions.

Daily Timetable for Live Learning Sessions

Class/ Year group	Teacher	Time
Fir Tree - Year R	Mrs Harvey	9.00
All Year 1	Mrs Harvey	9.30
Year 2	Mrs Fisher/Mrs Green	10.30
Hurstwood	Miss Meade	11.00
Kemsley	Mrs Carey	11.45
Oakwood	Miss Essenhigh	11.00

These sessions will last between 30 and 45 minutes.

Mrs Fisher will be holding 2 live sessions on Tuesday 5th January. The 2nd session will take place at 2.00pm.

Work will be uploaded onto the website ready for Tuesday 5th January. Please bear with us with the live learning as this will be a learning curve for us all!!! If you are unable to access this remote learning or any of the learning on the school website please contact your child's class teacher.

Please note that pupils should remain at home during the school day, taking suitable breaks for their general wellbeing. We would ask that you are available to your child during their live learning session and remind you that these sessions are not to be recorded by either children or teachers.

We will also be holding a live Celebration Worship every Friday at 2.00pm, a link will be sent for your child to join us. We will be celebrating the achievements of both children working at home and those at school.

Absence coding

Throughout the period of closure, all pupils will be 'Y' coded. No absences, authorised or unauthorised, will be registered against pupils.

Free School Meals

We are conscious that a number of children eligible for Free School Meals. The most recent DFE advice on this states:

To support children eligible for free school meals, schools will be able to purchase meals or vouchers for supermarkets or local shops.

The government has also confirmed that the total value of vouchers offered to each eligible child per week will exceed the rate it pays to schools for free school meals, recognising that families will not be buying food in bulk and may therefore incur higher costs. The final amounts will be confirmed shortly.

While we await this guidance, we would not want to leave any child in need without provision; therefore, during this initial period, if you require support with provision of food, please contact Mrs Cox in complete confidence and we will make arrangements with you.

Food

There will be no catering facilities available in school during this time of closure, please provide your child with a packed lunch from home.

Safeguarding and other urgent concerns

There may be a need for parents/carers, pupils or staff members to urgently contact school staff about safeguarding issues or other pressing matters during the period of closure. If you do need to contact the school, please use the following email addresses:

For general enquires/information: office@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
For finance queries: finance@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Place: kate.place@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Cox headteacher@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk

If you would like to talk to Mrs Sage or a member of school staff in person or please go the side window of the main office where Mrs Sage will be able to speak with you or arrange for you to talk to a member of staff.

If you wish to have a telephone conversation with a member of staff, the school office will be manned between 8.30 and 1.30. Should you need to contact a member of staff between 1.30 and 3.30 the contact number will be: **07745782649**

Breakfast Club

If you utilise breakfast club then please email Mrs Hewitt direct on:- finance@bredhurst.kent.sch.uk for payments.

Breakfast club will continue to operate between the hours of 7.30 and 8.45.

Dropping off and Collecting Your Child

Please ensure that you line up in the correct line with your child. We will indicate when your child can enter their classroom – the children in Fir Tree and Forge will be sent into their classes via the back door, as is the current procedure. The children in Hurstwood, Kemsley and Oakwood classes will wait on the playground until a member of staff sends them into their class.

At the end of the school day, the children in Fir Tree and Forge class will be collected via their classroom doors as is the procedure currently.

The children in Hurstwood, Kemsley and Oakwood will be brought onto the playground for collection.

We would ask that you are not late to collect your children. If they do not see their parents at the end of the school day, it is a worry for them and an added pressure for school staff at this already stressful time.

We would ask that anyone entering the school premises wears a face mask. This includes when you are dropping off and collecting your children at the beginning and end of the school day.

The back gate will open at 8.45 for the start of the day, which will begin at **8.50** and again at 3.05 ready for the end of the school day, which will finish at **3.15**. Should you wish to collect your child before this time please call the school on **07745782649** and a member of staff will bring your child to you via the front gate.

The children will be working in the following classes during this time of closure:

Fir Tree class – Year R and 1

Forge class – Year 2

Hurstwood class- Year 3

Kemsley class – Year 4 & 5

Oakwood class – Year 6

If the numbers for any of these classes are very small we may choose to put 2 classes together on some occasions - we will ensure that we do not exceed 15 in any one bubble.

Self-isolation

Should a bubble have a confirmed case of covid-19, the whole school will be notified. Every child and adult within the bubble where the case has been confirmed will be asked to self-isolate from either the date of the test or from the date of symptoms. We will be ensuring movement of both staff and children is kept to a minimum during the closure period to prevent the spread of the virus and further closures of bubbles.

Reassurances

Please do remember that our children are scared by this virus, they pick up on what adults are saying and the tension or anxieties we may be showing, despite trying to hide it from them. They, like us, have never experienced anything like this before and for some this will cause real anxiety, they do not know how long this new school closure will last and will find the uncertainty difficult to manage.

They have just become used to being back at school, amongst their friends again (which for most of the children is the thing they really needed and missed during the lockdown in March) and now they are back at home again or in key worker provision. It is a very unsettling time for everyone. All we can hope is the closures are as short as possible and as the children will be seeing each other virtually they will still have a sense of belonging and feel they have contact with their friends and the school. However, do not be surprised if over the coming weeks you see an increase in behaviour issues, which could manifest themselves as: anger, meltdowns, temper tantrums, refusing to do their school work. This is normal under these exceptional circumstances. Please make sure, as previously, you take the time to comfort them and love them, give them hugs and reassurance, play games, go for walks, bake cakes, read books, watch movies. Ultimately, do whatever keeps you all sane and safe!

Our whole community is in our thoughts and prayers. We hope you are all able to navigate this next period of time with minimal difficulty and we look forward very much to when our school can be reunited and return to normal.

Best wishes,

Mrs Michelle Cox