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Wednesday 17th May 2023

Dear Parents

Re: Starting Bridge School (September 2023)

I hope and trust that you are all keeping well. I do apologise that the information in this letter was not with you sooner, we have been making some final arrangements and they have taken longer than we had planned.

As a parent myself, I understand that you will want your child's start of schooling to be as smooth and as positive as possible and I'd like to share the details of our 'Transition into School' programme which will help ensure this.

Nursery Visits

We have a great many children joining us from different nurseries across Canterbury and both Mr Redpath and Miss Goddard have begun contacting your children's nurseries to arrange meetings or phone calls which will allow them to gain an initial impression of the children and allow for professional discussions about any matters that may support a successful start to school in September.

Bridge Village Fete

As part of the Bridge Village Fete, the Year R team will be running some activities specifically designed for our new children and all parents are invited to this. This will take place on Saturday 24th June between 12pm and 1pm.

Stay and Play Sessions

In order to familiarise the children with adults in school and the classrooms, your child is invited to a Stay and Play session on either Thursday 22nd June or Thursday 29th June between 1.45pm and 2.45pm. Children will either be with Mr Redpath or Miss Goddard but this will not indicate which class your child will be in. At this time, parents are asked not to stay in school as we have found that this impacts on the children settling.

Class Placements

After the Stay and Play sessions, parents will be emailed to inform them which class their child will be placed in. Please note that class allocations are determined randomly to ensure an even distribution of boys/girls and ages across the two classes and advice from professionals is also taken into consideration. Whilst we recognise that some parents may have a preference in this regard, this cannot be taken into account when placing a child.

Parent and Children's Session

The following week, all children are invited to spend the afternoon in school with their child's class teacher; this will take place on Thursday 6th July from 1.15pm to 2.45pm. During this time, parents are invited to meet with the senior leadership team and learn some more information about the school, including our Bridge Bees Breakfast & After-School Club (BASC) provision.



Following this, there will be an opportunity for a short individual meeting with your child's class teacher. These will take place remotely and you will be able to sign up for an appointment from the end of June.

Parental Consultations

Before your children start school in September, we invite parents in for a consultation to meet the class teacher and any updates from the summer holiday. These will take place on Friday 1st September and Monday 4th September.

Starting School

The first day of school for our new children will be Tuesday 5th September and, for the first week, children will be in school half-days to facilitate their settling in. **Please note that this means that children will either be allocated a week of morning slots (9am to 11.45am) or a week of afternoon slots (12.30pm to 3.15pm) – this will be randomised in order to be fair to everyone.**

We would generally expect most children to be ready to start school full-time the following week (w/c 11th September) but we recognise that, given the current situation, some children may benefit from a longer period of just doing mornings. This can be arranged closer to the time and we will be asking you if this is something you would like to consider at the end of June.

I hope that you have found this information helpful and if you have any further queries please do contact Morny Starling, our Admissions Officer – morny.starling@bridge.kent.sch.uk

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely



James Tibbles
Headteacher

Key Dates

The table below shows the key dates that you need to be aware of:

Stay and Play (Group 1) <i>No parents</i>	Thursday 22 nd June, 1.45pm to 2.45pm
Stay and Play (Group 2) <i>No parents</i>	Thursday 29 th June, 1.45pm to 2.45pm
Stay and Play (All children) <i>Parents in the hall</i>	Thursday 6 th July, 1.15pm to 2.45pm
Parent/Teacher Consultations	Friday 1 st Sept and Monday 4 th Sept
Year R children start <i>9am to 11.45 or 12.30pm to 3.15pm</i>	Tuesday 5 th September
Year R children to start full-time <i>8.40am to 3.15pm</i>	Monday 11 th September