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Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents

Re: Starting Bridge School in 2020

I hope and trust that you are all keeping well in this difficult time and I want to start by thanking you for your patience.

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.

Thank you to those of you who have given us the details of your child's nursery. Over the next month, our teachers will be speaking with the staff of these nurseries 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.

If you have not already let us know which nursery your child attends, it would be very helpful if we could have this information by the end of the week.

Before the Summer Holidays

We will shortly be sending out a form for parents to fill in asking for some basic information about your child. It would be extremely helpful if these are completed as soon as possible.

Towards the end of June, parents are normally invited into the school hall with the senior leadership team to learn more information about the school, including our breakfast and after-school club provision (Bridge Bees). As things stand, we are planning on holding this remotely via Zoom and, closer to the time, we will send out a Zoom invite for all parents.

This meeting is scheduled for 3.30pm on Thursday 25th June. If you are unable to attend, it will be recorded and placed on the school website.

Following this meeting, parents will be informed who their child's class teacher will be in September.

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.

In September

The first day of term is Tuesday 1st September and, for the first week, we are inviting you and your child in for 20-minutes with the teacher and teaching assistant. These individual visits aim to enable you and your child to meet the adults in person and become familiar with the classroom. You will be able to sign up for a slot after Thursday 25th June.



The following week (w/c 7th September), children will be in school half-days to facilitate their settling in. **Please note that this means that some children will be allocated a week of morning slots or a week of afternoon slots – 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 14th 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:

Transition into School (Zoom Meeting)	Thursday 25 th June, 3.30pm
Sign up for Meet the Staff session	From Monday 29 th June
Meet the Staff Sessions	Tuesday 1 st September to Friday 4 th September
Year R children start	Monday 7 th September (morning or afternoon sessions)
Year R children able to start full-time	Monday 14 th September