

Headteacher: James Tibbles
Tel: 01227 830276
Email: office@bridge.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.bridge.kent.sch.uk

Bridge & Patrixbourne CEP School
Conyngnam Lane
Bridge, Canterbury
Kent
CT4 5JX



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Dear Parents/Carers,

And so we reach the end of Term 5. It has been, without a doubt, the most unusual term I'm sure that any of us have had at school.

This week, we have all been hard at work preparing the school for a new way of schooling with maximum class sizes of 15 (and in many cases less than that!) but we are looking forward to having at least some children back on the 1st June. **Please remember that all this is conditional on the government's announcement on Thursday 28th May.**

Groups are being led by class teachers which means that they will have less time to respond to emails from parents and, for this, I can only apologise in advance. We have all really enjoyed seeing your children's work but it will not be possible to reply and comment to every piece of work that comes in. I am reluctant to suggest this, but please could work be saved and shared with your child's teacher as part of any Zoom call.

COVID-19 Update

On Tuesday, I sent out an update about the school's plan regarding the phased return of Year R, 1 and 6 and this can be found on our [Coronavirus News](#) page – there was a problem with ParentMail so not all parents may have received this. If you have not yet read this letter, then please do so, especially if you are a key worker or have a child in Year R, 1 or 6.

It is extremely important that if you have not signed your child up for a space then you do not come to the school as we will not have a place for your child.

Over the course of the first week, we will be evaluating our plan and then making any necessary changes. Once these are done, we will be writing to parents again to see if there are any families who wish to send their children in from Monday 15th June. We felt that it was important that the changes made have a chance to establish and be tested before adding more children to the 'mix' which is why we are accepting new children on a fortnightly basis.

Please do continue to keep an eye on our new webpage: [School Closure: Phased Return](#). We will continue updating this over the half-term and there is also a Frequently Asked Questions section which I will keep updated. If you have a question, please feel free to email me (although check the website first in case it's already been answered!) – headteacher@bridge.kent.sch.uk

Year R, Year 1 and Year 6

If you have a child in Year R, Year 1 or Year 6 and have a space from the 1st June, you would have received an email via ParentMail letting you know which group your child has been placed in, which adults they are with and which room they will be in.

School lunches will be provided in needed and we are hoping to have a system of signing up for a school lunch using ParentMail in place.



Key Workers

Please continue to complete the weekly Google Form as we will need to know numbers for Breakfast and After-School Club: <https://forms.gle/gd1xPL3TzPrRinJu9>

If you are a key worker and are accessing our Breakfast and After-School Club, then children can be dropped off and picked up from the school office. If you are not using Breakfast & After-School Club then please enter school through the playground with everyone else.

At the beginning of the day, children will join their small groups unless parents have asked that they remain in the key worker group.

School lunches will be provided in needed and we are hoping to have a system of signing up for a school lunch using ParentMail in place.

Parental Survey

Normally at this time of year, I ask parents to complete a short survey which helps to inform our plans for the coming year. I just wanted to let you know that I'm still planning on sending this out but it will be after the half-term break.

Half-Term Holiday

Over the half-term break I would encourage all families not to home-school in order to mark a difference between this time at home and home-schooling. Enjoy the sunshine and forget about fronted adverbials and fractions for a week!

Library News

I'd like to end on a good note. It is almost a year to the day that our library was officially opened by Anne Booth and I'm very excited to let you know that, over the half-term break, Greg Stobbs will be painting a mural in the library to inspire and excite the children about reading. I'd love to be able to share his preliminary ideas with you but Miss Allison tells me I'm not allowed to! We'll be sharing the 'big reveal' in my next newsletter after the half-term holiday!

Thank you for your support and please have a restful and safe half-term.

With best wishes



James Tibbles