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Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been such a pleasure to be able to have at least some of the children back in school this week and we've heard from children and parents about how pleased they are that they've been able to return. Following the governors' letter to parents last week, they have also been monitoring the situation in school (including a visit from Rev. Estella) and are happy that the school is doing everything it can to support the children.

The focus this past week has been very much on the children's health and wellbeing. Mr Miles and Mrs Saint have been providing music and yoga respectively, Laura Andrews has been leading some socially distanced dance and Stewart has been really pleased to get back and is hoping to see all pupils soon so that he can continue to deliver the work of the Sadie Bristow Foundation.

Thank you to all our parents for adhering to the precautions that we have in place around the school at drop-off and pick-up time. We will continue to maintain these and ask parents to support these outside of school so that these behaviours become habitual.

Phased Return to School

As I mentioned last week, I am now asking parents of children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 to indicate if they would like their children to return to school from Monday 15th June. If your child is already back in school, you do not need to complete this form again. In order to assist with our planning, we need this information by the end of the day on Wednesday 10th June. If the form is not completed by this time, we cannot guarantee a space for your child.

Phased Return of Year R, Year 1 and Year 6: <https://forms.gle/EshemnHBFWnLycJS9>

I know and understand that some parents are just as anxious to get the remaining year groups back to school but the current government guidance has not yet changed. I will write to you as soon as I have any information on this.

Provision for Children of Critical Workers

Please continue to complete the weekly Google Form as we will need to know numbers for Breakfast and After-School Club. The Google Form for the 15th June is below and it would be helpful if this was completed by next Thursday.

Childcare Provision for Critical Workers (w/c 15th June): <https://forms.gle/Y41PzBJFtHDWPip9>

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.



Cancellation of the Village Fete

On Monday, Rev. Estella and I sent out a joint letter explaining that we have, reluctantly, made the decision that we are unable to hold the Village Fete this year. I am sure that this will have come as no surprise to anyone but that just means we have more time to make the 2021 Village Fete better than ever!

Kent Test

Registration for the Kent Test opened on Monday 1st June and closes on Wednesday 1st July. In the absence of any further information, we have to work on the assumption that this will still take place early September. All information pertaining to the Kent Test can be found on the [Transition into Secondary School](#) pages on our school website.

Parental Survey

As we enter the final term of the academic year, we need to start thinking about our plans for next year. I am sure you'll appreciate that all our plans for this year have not necessarily come to fruition but nevertheless I don't think that this process of reflection and planning has ever been more important than it is at the moment.

As part of this process, I am inviting all parents to complete our annual parent survey which is on the linked Google Form below. There are a couple of additional sections from last year, one section specifically asks about the actions from last year's survey and another section asks about the impact of coronavirus on the school and the children.

Parental Survey (Summer 2020): <https://forms.gle/69pb9md8rQpQXLiD9>

Thank you in advance for sharing your views. The form will close in two weeks' time on the 19th June.

Our School Library – One Year On...

I can scarcely believe that it's already been a year since the opening of our new school library. Miss Allison has written a short article about this and you can find it on our school website on our [News Pages](#). This article also includes a time-lapse video of Greg Stobbs creating his artwork which is a fascinating watch.



Children's Toilets

In every school I have worked at, when I ask children what they would like to change about the school, toilets always comes up as one of the top three and the children of Bridge & Patrixbourne School are certainly no exception in that regard.

I've been told that although the infant toilets were refurbished about 8 years ago, the toilets in the new build are almost 18 years old and even Carla Long can't remember when the Year 6 toilets were done (that should tell you something!)

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that over the summer holidays, all of the three blocks of pupil toilets will be completely refurbished with new flooring and all new sanitary ware. We will also be replacing the urinals in the boys' toilets and replacing these with cubicles.

This will all lead to a more pleasant experience for the children when they need to use the toilet and we will of course be talking to the children about taking care of their brand new facilities.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

James Tibbles