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Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm pleased that the past week has run relatively smoothly and we have a lot of happy children coming into school each day. I've spent a lot of time this week visiting the classes and seeing how things are going and it's been great to see the school 'alive' again.

I have also enjoyed seeing our new Year R children in school and they have settled in very well with the support of our excellent Year R team. Next week will be their first full week and I'm sure it will be tiring for them but equally as enjoyable.

Coronavirus Update

All of us, parents and school alike, have been navigating this week with some trepidation as we've had a lot of children with colds. This was only to be expected given the exposure to so many different children in the class and I know that there is some anxiety around should children be in if they have a cold – particularly if they are displaying a cough at the same time.

The government guidance is clear that any cough should be 'new' and 'continuous' (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours). There will be children who have a minor cough who do not meet these criteria so please don't feel anxious about them being in school, but do speak to us with any concerns.

Adjustments to the Drop-Off & Pick-Up Routine

The current system seems to be working quite well and I've had feedback from parents that children are enjoying being able to come directly into their classrooms rather than having to wait on the playground to be called in.

Next week will bring a different challenge as our Year R children will be starting school and this will naturally create a bottle-neck both at drop-off and pick-up. However, we have a cunning plan!

In the mornings, if you are dropping off a Year R child, please could we ask that you arrive at school no earlier than 8.50am if at all possible. By this time, most of the children and parents have come through and this will mean an easier and less stressful time for us all.

In the afternoon, parents of Year R children may collect their children from 3pm in order to avoid the rush of other parents. However, the other classes will not be releasing their children until 3.10pm so please do not enter the school premises unless you are collecting a Year R child – you will not be able to collect children from other year groups.

We're trialling this arrangement for the benefit of the children and we would very much appreciate everyone's cooperation.

Sweets

I'm sorry to be a humbug but please could we ask that birthday sweets are not brought in to be shared for the time being. Thank you.



PE Kits

I've also had plenty of positive feedback about children wearing their PE kits into school rather than having to get changed and apparently there's a lot less lost property than normal – win, win! I've been asked if we can make this a permanent arrangement and I'm certainly willing to consider this.

Meet the Team Sessions

Over the next couple of weeks, our teachers will be holding 'Meet the Team' sessions on Zoom. This will take the normal format of a presentation from the teachers and an opportunity to ask questions that you may have. Zoom invites will be sent out via ParentMail and these meetings will be recorded and placed on the school website for any parents unable to attend. Please note that we will be asking all parents to turn off their video and mute themselves for the duration of the presentation; questions can be asked via the chat function or sent in in advance.

- Year 1 Meet the Team – Thursday 24th Sept @ 4pm
- Year 2 Meet the Team – Tuesday 22nd Sept @ 4.30pm
- Year 3 Meet the Team – Tuesday 22nd Sept @ 4pm
- Year 4 Meet the Team – Wednesday 23rd Sept @ 4pm
- Year 5 Meet the Team – Monday 21st Sept @ 4pm
- Year 6 Meet the Team – Monday 21st Sept @ 4.30pm

Parental Consultations

Given the circumstances, we are holding an early parental consultation this year to discuss how children have settled since their return to school. These will all be held via Zoom or phone call as we are not able to facilitate so many parents coming into school over such a short period of time.

The arrangements for the consultations will be the same as they were for March before we entered lockdown. There will be a morning slot, an afternoon slot and an evening slot (on a separate day). Invitations to sign up for a slot will be sent next Friday.

	Morning Slot	Afternoon Slot	Evening Slot
Year R	Thursday 8 th October 9am to 11am	Thursday 8 th October 2pm to 5pm	Wednesday 7 th October 4pm to 7pm
Year 1	Thursday 1 st October 9am to 11am	Thursday 1 st October 2pm to 5pm	Wednesday 7 th October 4pm to 7pm
Year 2	Tuesday 29 th September 9am to 11am	Tuesday 29 th September 2pm to 5pm	Wednesday 7 th October 4pm to 7pm
Year 3	Monday 28 th September 9am to 11am	Monday 28 th September 2pm to 5pm	Wednesday 7 th October 4pm to 7pm
Year 4	Wednesday 30 th September 9am to 11am	Wednesday 30 th September 2pm to 5pm	Wednesday 7 th October 4pm to 7pm
Year 5	Tuesday 6 th October 9am to 11am	Tuesday 6 th October 2pm to 5pm	Wednesday 7 th October 4pm to 7pm
Year 6	Monday 5 th October 9am to 11am	Monday 5 th October 2pm to 5pm	Wednesday 7 th October 4pm to 7pm

No Smoking

Can I also remind parents that the school is a non-smoking site and this does include electronic cigarettes.

Medicines

If your child needs medicines administered during the school day, can these please be brought to the main office and a consent form would need to be completed.

BASC Bookings

Those of you who use Bridge Bees BASC will know that we've moved our booking system to ParentMail rather than via email. In order to ensure that we have space for all our families, we do ask that bookings are made at the beginning of each term as we do have to adhere to staffing ratios. This does mean that if you don't book in advance, we cannot guarantee a space for your child although we will always do our best to support.

Booking queries should be directed to Hannah in the school office (hannah.evans@bridge.kent.sch.uk) whereas any questions about what happens at Bridge Bees BASC should go to Elena (BASC@bridge.kent.sch.uk)

Parents Prayer Group Friday 11th September. 9.15am via Zoom

We have a small group of parents who meet regularly during term time to pray for our school, staff, pupils and parents. Since Easter this group has met virtually. If you would like to join in please let Rev'd Estella know and she will send you the Zoom link: estellalast@gmail.com

PESE (News for Year 6 Parents)

Kent Test

You may have seen over the holidays that the date of Thursday 15th October has been confirmed as the date of the Kent Test. Before this, the children will be undertaking the CATs during the week commencing 28th September and results can be discussed at the parental consultations if desired.

Secondary School Selection

Applications for secondary schools are open and close on Monday 2nd November (the link is below). You are eligible to name up to six secondary schools due to the extraordinary circumstances but if you would like any advice about this then please do not hesitate to contact me.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-2>

With best wishes,



James Tibbles

Upcoming Events

[CALENDAR >](#)

All dates and events can be found on our new school calendar.

You are also able to 'subscribe' to the calendar (there is a link underneath the calendar) which means that you can have the school calendar on your phone or tablet and any updates will automatically appear on your device!

Monday 14th September

Tuesday 15th September

Wednesday 16th September

Thursday 17th September

Friday 18th September

Monday 21st September

4pm: Yr 5 Meet the Team
4.30pm: Yr 6 Meet the Team

Tuesday 22nd September

4pm: Yr 3 Meet the Team
4.30pm: Yr 2 Meet the Team

Wednesday 23rd September

4pm: Yr 4 Meet the Team

Thursday 24th September

4pm: Yr 1 Meet the Team

Friday 25th September

Monday 28th September

9am to 11am; 2pm to 5pm:
Year 3 Parent Consultations

Tuesday 29th September

9am to 11am; 2pm to 5pm:
Year 2 Parent Consultations

Wednesday 30th September

9am to 11am; 2pm to 5pm:
Year 4 Parent Consultations

Thursday 1st October

9am to 11am; 2pm to 5pm:
Year 1 Parent Consultations

Friday 2nd October

Monday 5th October

9am to 11am; 2pm to 5pm:
Year 6 Parent Consultations

Tuesday 6th October

9am to 11am; 2pm to 5pm:
Year 5 Parent Consultations

Wednesday 7th October

4pm to 7pm: Whole School
Parent Consultations

Thursday 8th October

9am to 11am; 2pm to 5pm:
Year R Parent Consultations

Friday 9th October