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Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Update

You would have seen on the news over the course of the week that there have been significant problems with our 'world-beating' Test and Trace system. Many of you have first-hand experience of this with an inability to access testing although I'm hearing that parents have greater success booking tests soon after 8pm.

Despite having access to a referral system which is supposed to prioritise key workers (spoiler alert – it doesn't work!), it has become clear that the lack of testing capacity is having a significant impact on our ability to staff the school. At the time of writing this newsletter, we have lost 10 teacher days as a result of delays in testing – and we're only 2½ weeks into the school term. By no means are we alone in this, a recent survey by the NAHT has shown that 45% of schools have school staff who cannot attend due to an inability to access testing.

In normal circumstances, we have a number of staff around the school who are willing and able to cover classes in the short-term but, with the necessity of maintaining 'bubbles' around the school, this is not currently possible. Myself, Mr Taylor and Mrs Long have also covered in various classes this week but we are then 'linked' to that bubble for a period of time and are then not able to cover in another class.

In addition to this, the regular bout of winter viruses which impact on staff health and wellbeing. This gives us a multitude of risks to our ability to effectively educate your children. This means that I must prepare for the possibility that we may have to close a class. I hope that this does not happen and this would be a final resort but it would be irresponsible of me not to prepare for this eventuality, no matter how unlikely.

You will already know that, should we have a positive case in our school community, Public Health England may require us to close a class or even a year group. We have developed Remote Learning Protocols and these are being shared with governors on the 1st October. Assuming that these are agreed, I will share these with you the following day.

To these ends, I would urge all parents to have a contingency plan should their child not be able to attend school for either of these reasons.

However, I remain cautiously optimistic –not in our government, but in our community and its response to the ongoing situation.

A Gift for our Library

On a more positive note, we were very pleased to receive a gift from local artist and parent Greg Stobbs for our library. Our brand-new hand-made clock fits in very well with the mural that he painted in our library over the Easter break earlier in the year.

We all really appreciate and value Greg's generosity and artistic flair and hope to be running a school-wide project where the children respond to the mural over the October half-term break.



Bridge Bees (BASC) Bookings

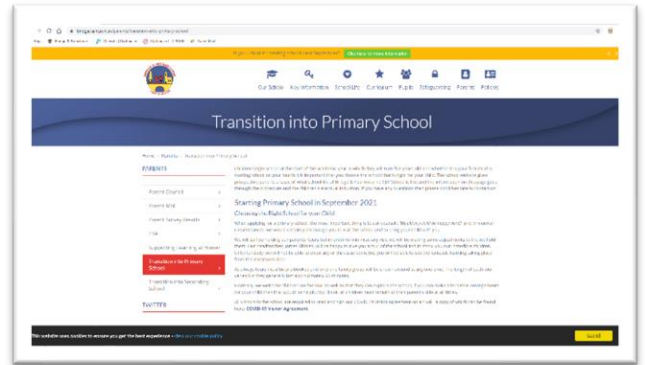
We are very pleased that our Bridge Bees Club remains as popular as ever but in order to maintain our ratios, it is important that we don't have children turning up that we are not expecting. The booking system changed this term and we asked parents to pre-book so that we knew how many children to expect but we have a number of children unexpectedly turning up.

Transition into Primary School (September 2021)

This week, we've updated the website with information that would be useful for parents of children who would be starting school next September.

We will still be holding our parental tours although we will have procedures in place to minimise any risk to the school community.

If you know of parents who would be interested then please direct them towards our website or they can call one of the ladies in the office to book a tour.



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 are being sent out today and bookings open tomorrow.

	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

School Photographs

On Tuesday 6th October, the school photographer will be in school to take individual photos of children. As you would expect, we will be requiring the photographers to maintain strict social distancing and adherence to our **Visitor Protocols**. I'm sorry that we will not be able to have family photos this year due to the complexities of these arrangements.

Meet the Team Sessions

Just a reminder that next week, 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 have already been 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

Special Recognition

I'd like to end on a really positive note.

Each year, the Canterbury Sports Partnership asks for nominations to recognise individuals whose contribution to sport in schools is 'above and beyond' and I'm very pleased to let you all know that Stewart Bristow was nominated by us and subsequently awarded with the Special Recognition Award.

Stewart has been part of the Bridge school community for many years now but has become fully immersed in it since launching the Sadie Bristow Foundation school's programme. His dedication and commitment is truly inspirational and he works from morning until late, coaching or training, or playing tennis. He has built great relationships with the adults and the children and has helped increase the amount of physical activity per day, in school.

This has helped the children enhance their skills plus the teachers benefit from his help and advice. He motivates and encourages the children and has boundless energy. He has raised tremendous sums of money for the SBF and has continued to do this during Lockdown whilst also providing challenges and useful videos for children during this time. He is always cheerful and upbeat and comes to school and takes coaching sessions in all weathers. Thank you, Stewart!

With best wishes,



James Tibbles



Upcoming Events

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

[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 21st September		4pm: Yr 5 Meet the Team 4.30pm: Yr 6 Meet the Team	
Tuesday 22nd September	Year 2 Walk into the village	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	Year 3 Walk to The Pig		
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	Year 3 Trip to the Old Work House	
Thursday 1st October	9am to 11am; 2pm to 5pm: Year 1 Parent Consultations		4pm: Governing Body Meeting
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	School Photographer in (Individuals only)	
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			
Monday 12th October			
Tuesday 13th October			
Wednesday 14th October			
Thursday 15th October	Kent Test (11+)		
Friday 16th October			