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Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been a lot more settled as we adjust into the routine of remote learning. There are still some problems with the use of Teams but, as we all become accustomed to using this, we're finding our ways through this.

We've spoken to the children several times about the use of the chat function and I'm pleased to see that, on the whole, this is being used a lot more responsibly.

Parents have also asked about the links. As I wrote last week these are now in a separate 'links' channel for each class so they can easily be found.

Staff Absence

There are always times in a school where a member of staff is not available for a lesson or part of a day as they are needed at a meeting, may have a medical appointment or undertaking training of some kind. These are usually quite easy to cover but in the current circumstances, I have been asking staff to set pre-recorded tasks for their children should this be needed.

Asymptomatic Testing in Primary Schools

This week, I 'attended' two DfE webinars on testing in primary schools which is due to start next week. The DfE have decided that it is not feasible to test primary-aged pupils at this time. I was under the impression that the plan had been for schools to provide rapid home-testing kits for parents to use with their children but this will not be the case.

Twice-weekly testing of all school staff will commence next week. Staff will carry out an LFD test the evening prior to their first day of work (usually Monday) and once more at a mid-point through the week. Should a member of staff test positive using an LFD test, then they and their close contacts, i.e. their class, will be asked to self-isolate pending a confirmatory PCR test. Should the PCR test be negative, then there will obviously be no further requirement to self-isolate and staff and children can return to school.

If you have any questions about this process, then please feel free to contact/email me.

Accelerated Reader

Mr Taylor has received several emails this week about how to access Accelerated Reader and he has asked me to include the following:

The website link is school specific so parents need to use the one below (not just google Accelerated Reader). Login is the first letter of their first name and the first four of their surname e.g. MTAYL and their password is abc.

<https://ukhosted14.renlearn.co.uk/6698607/default.aspx>

Any quizzes they do at home still count towards their certificate targets etc. and the book swap for KS2 means children should still be able to work through new books.



Reading Books

On Thursday, we will be doing a 'book swap' for all children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 on the playground between 2pm and 3pm. Key Stage 2 children's book swap will be the following Thursday (4th Feb).

Free School Meal Voucher Scheme

Free School Meal Vouchers have been ordered for all eligible families. I do apologise for the delay in receiving these.

Parental Consultations

We have arranged parental consultations which will run from 1pm to 5pm on two afternoons over the next couple of weeks. Due to the current workload that staff are now facing, we've made the decision not to offer an evening session at this time although we will revert to having an evening session in future consultations.

Appointments can be booked via ParentMail from tomorrow morning at 9am and these will all be held via Zoom or phone call.

The focus of these sessions will be to share your child's attainment data from December as well as discussing how they are doing during this period of remote learning. Teachers may also suggest specific activities that you can do at home to support any individual learning needs and support writing (as we know this was a concern over the summer remote learning period).

Monday 1 st Feb	Tuesday 2 nd Feb	Wednesday 3 rd Feb	Thursday 4 th Feb	Friday 5 th Feb
	Year R Year 4	Year 4 Year 5	Year 5 Year R	
Monday 8 th Feb	Tuesday 9 th Feb	Wednesday 10 th Feb	Thursday 11 th Feb	Friday 12 th Feb
Year 3 Year 6	Year 3 Year 6	Year 1 Year 2	Year 1 Year 2	

Dance Competition

Well done to everyone who entered the Canterbury Academy Virtual Dance Competition and I'm pleased to share with you all that Arianna (Year 1) and Darwin (Year R) both came first in their categories. I'm told that trophies are on the way for these two children and you should soon be able to see a video of short clips from the dancers on the Canterbury Academy Sports Partnership social media pages.

Fundraising for Bridge Village Playgroup

Many of the children who attend Bridge School have attended the Bridge Village Playgroup and, like many such organisations, they find themselves in a difficult financial position. The group has been running for 41 years and if things continue the way they are, the group may not have the finances to reach this summer.

A GoFundMe page has been set up and I know that any donation, no matter how small, would be appreciated. <https://gofund.me/1bfc9a50>

Bridge Village Playgroup



Tennis Awards

Last night, the Kent LTA Awards took place and Bridge School had been shortlisted for the 'Education Award'. Sadly we did not win but I am very pleased to share that Kati (who supports Stewart) won the Young Person of the Year Award. I'm sure you'll all join me in offering our congratulations.

Kati Rust (Bromley Tennis Centre & Bridge TC)

Kati joined BTC on a voluntary basis to develop her skills and progress along the coaching pathway. Since joining BTC her confidence has grown and her enthusiasm on court has been infectious. She is setting a great example to our juniors who may be aspiring coaches in the future. She is half-way through her Level 1 Coaching Course and is keen to learn from all sources available. Kati works very closely with Stewart Bristow and has been a vital part of the Sadie Bristow open days. She is fantastic at welcoming everyone to the events and at making the sessions fun and inclusive for everyone.



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Tibbles
Headteacher