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Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all had a restful half-term break; I decided to challenge my marriage with a demonstration of my decorating skills but it was good to have a break from school and I trust you also took this opportunity (the break that is, not testing a relationship!)

With only a week left to go before the children are fully back in school, our focus is on ensuring that we, and the children, are fully ready for Monday 8th March. Earlier this week, I sent all parents a letter detailing our priorities for the coming term and I hope that you have all taken the chance to read this.

Naturally, it wouldn't be a typical week without a 'spanner in the works' and yesterday we had a problem with our gas supply which meant that we were without gas for much of the day. Thankfully, the majority of the cooking had been completed in the kitchen by this point however as the quality of the meals was not up to standard, we will not be charging families for any meals taken on Thursday. Any payments will be credited back to your accounts in the next week or so.

Reading Volunteers

Given the fact that case numbers are currently low (and contingent on them remaining low), we would very much welcome parental help as Reading Volunteers in school. This would have to be carefully managed to avoid 'bursting of bubbles' but, if this is something that you would be willing to help with, then please drop Morny a call or an email (morny.starling@bridge.kent.sch.uk) and we'll be in touch.

Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE)

You may not be aware but there is a new statutory requirement on schools from Easter to teach Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE). We have looked through the materials and the vast majority of the content are things that are already taught in school although there are some changes. Through consultation with parents, governors and staff, we would like your feedback and attached alongside this newsletter is more information from Mr Perfect who is our Senior Lead for Health & Wellbeing in the school.

I would invite you to read through the materials and, if you wish, please contact Mr Perfect via the school office with any comments you may have. All comments should be received by the school by Friday 26th March.

National Offer Day

On Monday, parents of Year 6 children will find out which secondary school their child has been allocated for September. If, after receiving your email, you wish to discuss anything then please do contact me directly via email.

Year 5 Residential Trip to Bore Place

This trip was due to take place towards the end of April but I'm sure that it will come as no surprise to anyone that this will not be able to go ahead. The Year 5 team are busy putting together an alternative plan for some activity days and sessions (possibly including trips) and they will be writing to you with their plans once they have been finalised.



It is still planned that the residential visit to PGL will take place in September 2021 (for the current Year 5 children when they are in Year 6).

Year 6 Trip to PGL

The May trip to PGL is still going ahead as planned but, realistically, a final decision is a couple of weeks away as they are awaiting updated guidance from the DfE.

Having been on several residentials and this particular venue previously, I do believe that this can go ahead in a COVID-aware way as it is very easy to maintain distance from any other groups and the children's accommodation is spread out around the campus.

As soon as we have information, we will share this.

Payments for Trips

I know that parents may feel anxious about paying for trips given the possibility that they may not go ahead. I would like to reassure parents that, should any trip be cancelled, all monies parents have paid will be refunded. You may have seen in media horror stories about companies owing schools thousands of pounds but that has not been our experience at all – both Bore Place and PGL have been excellent.

Staffing News

I am very pleased to let all parents know that Clare Readman, who has been our School Business Manager whilst Jess Haigh is on maternity leave, has secured a position as School Business Manager at Dover Grammar School for Girls. Officially, her last day with us will be on Thursday 1st April although she will still be coming in one day a week after the Easter holiday prior to Jess' return in the first week of May.

Parental Parking

If there has been a silver lining to the partial closure of schools, it is that parking has not been a problem! Without wanting to presume that this will once again be an issue, please can I just remind everyone to park considerately and not to drive down School Road unless you have a registered blue badge; the parking spaces on the right-hand side are allocated for these.

Term Dates (2021-22)

The term dates for next year have been set and can also be found on our school website.

Term 1: Thursday 2nd Sept to Wednesday 20th Oct

Term 2: Monday 1st November to Friday 17th Dec

Term 3: Monday 4th Jan to Friday 11th Feb

Term 4: Monday 21st Feb to Friday 1st April

Term 5: Tuesday 19th April to Friday 27th May

Term 6: Wednesday 8th June to Friday 22nd July

Staff Training Days

- Wednesday 1st September 2021
- Thursday 21st October 2021
- Friday 22nd October 2021
- Monday 6th June 2022
- Tuesday 7th June 2022

Kent Teacher of the Year Award

This is your final call should you wish to nominate one of our fantastic members of staff for an award prior to the closing date on Monday. Being nominated is recognition in itself and I know has been really appreciated by the staff in the past: <https://www.kmcharityteam.co.uk/schools/ktoty/>

With best wishes,

James Tibbles

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Headteacher

