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Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you all for completing the Google Form last week with your initial thoughts about returning school. I had 362 responses which considering you only had 48 hours was very pleasing.

I have read all of your individual comments and it is clear that there is a lack of confidence in government's ambition to bring Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 children back to school with only 38% of parents feeling confident enough to send their child back to school from 1st June.

You should be aware that the final decision on this date will be made by the government on Thursday 28th May.

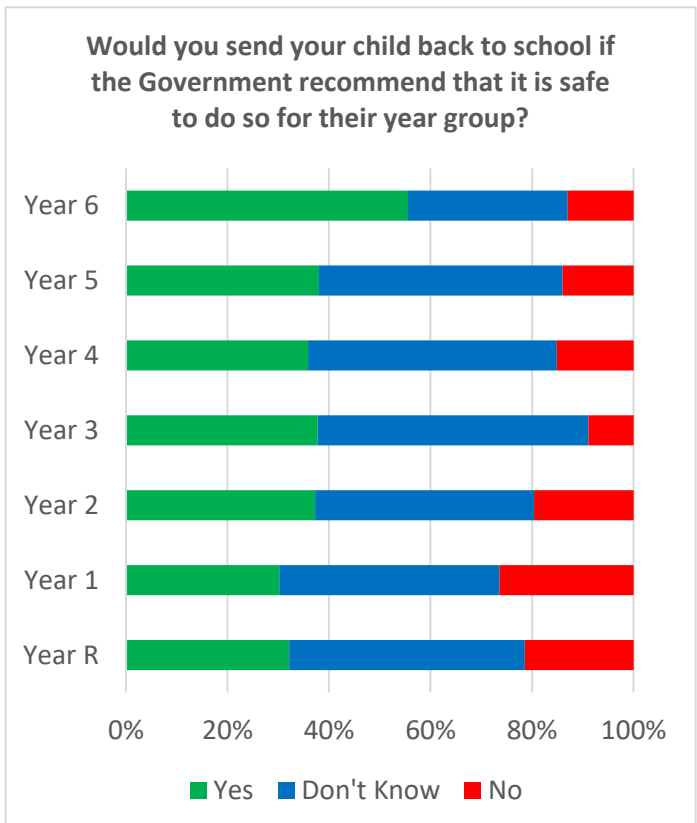
You will notice from the chart (*right*), that the only significant outlier is Year 6 and, from reading parental comments, I believe that this is due to the children being slightly older (and therefore being able to understand social distancing) and also the desire to have a meaningful 'end' to primary school.

What is also clear is that almost half of parents are still undecided.

As promised, I am writing to you all with some detail about the phased re-introduction of Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 children. I hope that the information provided below helps you to make an informed decision about whether or not your child should be in school.

I want to be very clear with parents that I also have significant reservations about the decisions that the government have taken but, at the end of the day, we are a Local Authority school and we will abide by the decisions that have been made. Our role in this is to make the best of the situation, ensuring that we are taking all necessary actions for the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care whilst also providing the best education that we can, given the current circumstances.

After you have read this letter, I would ask that all parents of children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 complete the attached Google Form (sorry – another one!) to let us know whether or not you are planning on sending their child in school from 1st June. **I will need this information by Thursday evening.**



I do realise that this is 10 days ahead of 1st June but if you are in any doubt I would recommend, if possible, that your child does not come into school for the first week. You can always add your child in later weeks.

The Google Form can be found here: <https://forms.gle/RLVu7Yq3xvmY6T8q8>

If you are a key worker please complete the form you normally fill in: <https://forms.gle/gd1xPL3TzPrRinJu9>

For ease of reading, I have broken the information into sections:

Arrival and Pickup

We will have a one-way system through the school grounds for the drop-off and pick up of children; this will go through the playground, around the nursery and out through the car park. Year 6 children will walk to their allocated classroom and then Year R and 1 children can be dropped off at the outer classroom doors.

Children can be dropped off between 8.45am and 9.15am and picked up between 2.45pm and 3.15pm. This has been arranged to support social distancing so please can we ask that parents don't congregate in groups.

On Fridays, children can be collected between 1pm and 1.30pm. We will, of course, continue to look after any children who cannot be collected at this time.

I am sorry to say that we will not be able to offer breakfast or after-school club provision for any children other than key workers.

Arrangements for Teaching & Learning

Children will be placed in groups of no more than 15 children with two adults per group. We have deployed the staff so that each group has within it a member of staff from your child's year group team. It is important that parents understand that we cannot ensure that your child is with their class teacher or indeed with particular friends in their class.

Children will not be permitted to mix with children from other groups, they will be based in a classroom and have their lunch and break times separate from the other groups in the school.

Teachers will be recapping what has (or maybe has not) been learnt over the last four weeks at home and addressing any gaps or misunderstanding in children's learning.

Children in Year R and 1 will maintain some form of active play-based learning and will not be sitting at desks 2m apart.

We will be having Stewart Bristow, Laura Andrews and Matt Miles in school although they will be teaching groups at least 2m from the group to maintain social distancing – during these sessions, staff will remain with their groups.

Location of Groups

KCC have provided guidance on how many children can be in a classroom/work space depending on its size in order to provide some measure of social distancing. The DfE have recognised that primary aged children "cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff." However, we are taking the following measures to maintain social distancing wherever possible by "minimising contact and mixing".

What is clear is that we do not have the capacity and space to accommodate all Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 children should they choose to return. I hope that we will not be in a position to turn anyone away but that is a possibility. We have based our plans on the numbers indicated in last week's Google Forms responses.

Group	Location	Size	Capacity
Reception A	RJP Classroom	51m ²	13 children
Reception B	RAM Classroom	53m ²	14 children
Reception C	2GD Classroom	49m ²	12 children

Year 1 Group A	1KC Classroom	59m ²	15 children
Year 1 Group B	1LA Classroom	60m ²	15 children
Year 1 Group C	2RF Classroom	49m ²	12 children
Year 6 Group A	5JP Classroom	51m ²	13 children
Year 6 Group B	5JS Classroom	51m ²	13 children
Year 6 Group C	4ST Classroom	51m ²	13 children
Year 6 Group D	4JH Classroom	51m ²	13 children
Key Workers	6MB Classroom	46m ²	10 children
Key Workers	6NA Classroom	44m ²	9 children

Cleaning & Hygiene

“The COVID-19 virus that causes COVID-19 spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks. You can also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

The virus can survive on surfaces that they land on. However, the amount of live virus on any surface decreases over time. The risk of infection from touching something that had the virus on it for a few days would reduce to negligible.”

(KCC Guidance)

In order to maintain thorough cleanliness, the following measures will be in place.

- Children will be asked to wash their hands on entry to the school and at frequent intervals throughout the day; hand-cream will also be available.
- Each group will have an allocated toilet to use. There will be dedicated ‘toileting time’ for all groups although we would obviously never prevent a child from going to the toilet if they needed to.
- All staff have completed a training course on infection control.
- Staff will be cleaning surfaces, door handles and materials throughout the day and, after the children have gone home, our Site Team will be cleaning the rooms that have been used by the children ready for the next day.
- It would be helpful if children were to bring in their own stationary in a pencil case, but this should not be shared with any other children.

Lunch Arrangements

Children will be eating their lunch in their groups and they will be eating their lunch together regardless of whether they are packed lunch or school dinners. Timings will also be staggered to minimise the number of children in the hall at the same time.

We are hoping to set up ParentMail so that school dinners can be ordered in advance.

Illness

Should a child exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 we will remove them from the classroom and place them apart from their peers (we’ll keep an adult with them!) until they can be collected by their parent. We would then ask that testing is carried out and all children and staff within their group will be advised to self-isolate pending the results from this test.

Staff have access to minimal PPE supplies and this will be reserved for the treatment of children who are displaying symptoms.

Home-Learning

As teachers will be full-time with their groups, please can I ask that emails are only used for queries around learning. If you have a query about anything else, please direct it to the office.

Maths home-learning will continue to be based on White Rose, the school has purchased the premium subscription and we will be uploading these resources onto the school website.

English home-learning will reflect what is being taught in school.

Staff will continue to record and send home weekly videos for children who are not in school and we will also be offering 10-minute Zoom calls if requested but these won't be weekly! (please bear in mind teacher's work-load)

Other Arrangements

In order to maintain a sense of normality, we are asking children to wear their uniform or PE kit (if it is a day they have a PE-based activity)

Please do not enter the school office unless it is urgent, messages should be sent in via email.

This is a lot of information and I appreciate that many of you may still be unsure of what to do for the best. If you have a child in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6, we need a decision from you ASAP, but if you are unsure, my advice is still that the safest place for your child is at home.

We are in an unprecedented situation and I have no doubt that our plans will be adapted as the situation evolves and we learn more about what works.

Please remember that we are still waiting on the government's decision on Thursday 28th May on whether this will all go ahead.

I have set up a [School Closure: Phased Return](#) page on the school website and this includes a Frequently Asked Questions section. If you have a question you would like answered then please email it in and I will add it to the page. My email address is headteacher@bridge.kent.sch.uk

Thank you again for your constant support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



James Tibbles,
Headteacher