

Headteacher: James Tibbles
Tel: 01227 830276
Email: office@bridge.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.bridge.kent.sch.uk

Bridge & Patribourne CEP School
Conyngham Lane
Bridge, Canterbury
Kent
CT4 5JX



Tuesday 26th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you your family and friends have stayed well in these difficult and unprecedented times.

As we are moving into a different phase of the Covid 19 emergency I thought it might be useful to share the discussions and thinking of the Governors. You will probably know that the governing body is made up of local people, parents and staff who have long term associations with our school. I believe that our varied experiences, distinctive viewpoints and different relationships with the school provide a meaningful and rounded contribution to the wellbeing of children and staff and the good management of the school. I am also aware that you do not hear from us very often but this one of those moments when we feel it is important to communicate directly.

At the present time, our priority is to support and encourage the extraordinary efforts of our headteacher, senior management team and all our staff. Our team are exceptional - they deserve our thanks for the work they have done, acknowledgment of the risks they have embraced and our support as we move forward.

As the guidance to schools about the return of children to school has trickled out – the governors have met (online) to discuss both the school’s Action Plan – which reflects the quality and care of our staff team and is as robust as possible – as well as the wider well-being implications for children and staff. At this point in time we do not feel that the advice from government about the return of children to school is anything like as well-thought through as we would wish, and this shifts much of the responsibility for decision-making onto schools and parents. In this context, where we are concerned but at the same time will continue to make effective plans for reopening, we want to record that we share the anxieties of all parents and staff, whatever your decisions may be over the next few weeks.

We know the government’s policy is still in development and there is a planned up-date on return to school on 28th May. We will meet to review that announcement and any other guidance that has been issued in the meantime. It is possible the government’s proposed date for reopening and planning may change, especially given the misgivings of many parents, Local Authorities, scientific advisers, unions and other countries in the UK and we must also prepare for that.

There is nothing we want more than a return to school that is both safe for children, staff and the wider community and offers the quality of experience and learning we know we can deliver, and we are proud of. At present, while we completely support the school’s Action Plan, we do not feel the information and guidance available is sufficient. We hope that the government will be able to offer a better path forward by 28th May and we will keep you up to date with our discussions following that.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well, and I hope you share my admiration and thanks for the dedication of our whole school team.



With best wishes

Matthew Jones
Chair of Governors