

05/06/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Term 6 Update – letter 16

From next Monday 8th June the number of students coming into school will be increasing with a planned phased increase across term 6. You will be contacted directly when a space becomes available in school. We have risk assessed and planned for these additional students coming in to school and at the beginning of this week new measures were put in place which included staggered starts/finishing of the school day.

There has been some understandable confusion regarding who should or should not be in school as a result of mainstream settings opening to Nursery, YrR, Yr1 and Yr6 students. The DfE guidance issued at the beginning of this week states the following;

Can my child return to school?

From the week commencing 1 June, we are asking:

- nurseries and other early year providers, including childminders, to begin welcoming back all children
- primary schools and alternative provision to welcome back children in nursery (where they have them), reception, year 1 and year 6
- all schools and childcare providers to continue to offer places to the priority groups – vulnerable children and children of critical workers – they have been supporting since the end of March
- special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools to work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups and informed by risk assessments

Students have been grouped into “bubbles”. This means it is not guaranteed that your child will be in their usual class, although we have worked hard to ensure a degree of consistency with the staffing and peer groups within each bubble. Staff will continue to support pupils in understanding the importance of social distancing, whilst continuing to promote friendships, without interacting with other bubbles.

We will obviously continue to meet the needs of our pupils, including their sensory and personal care needs. Pupils will be making the most of our outdoor areas, where we can create more opportunities to maintain or extend the 2metre rule.

The number of pupils within each bubble will be no more than five per class in most circumstances, this is to create additional space, making social distancing easier for our pupils.

From Monday 8th June the focus will be moving back to a learning environment and therefore we would request that students begin to wear school uniform unless they have outgrown it.

What can my child bring into school?

We ask that where possible students do not bring into school any personal items, apart from sensory resources required for the day. In line with our new guidelines, please ensure your child brings a named water bottle, sunhat, sun cream and coat / jacket into school. We will not be sending home any reading books to prevent transmission. We will continue to use home/school journals as our method of communication.

Student photos

As you will know we had our school photos started in the Spring term but unfortunately due to lockdown the second day of photos did not happen. We are currently sending out photo proofs and order forms to all those that were able to have the photos taken and will re-book the photographer at the earliest convenience.

Communication and FLO

Class teachers and class leads should be making contact with you on a weekly basis on the phone or via email unless you have asked for alternative arrangements to be made. Some families are liaising directly with the school FLO, and I would ask that if you have any questions or queries that you direct these to the FLO as some social media posts have been inaccurate.

Carrotty Woods Residential

Our planned residential this term has unfortunately been cancelled. We are currently liaising with Carrotty Woods to arrange for refunds to be sent to those families who have paid money and deposits towards this trip.

The main symptoms of coronavirus have been revised to reflect the new symptoms that are occurring. If your child or one of your family members has one of the symptoms below, please inform a member of the leadership team immediately.

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Revised arrangements and procedures that were implemented on 1st June 2020

Timetable and Class Groupings

Your child will not be following their usual timetable and may be learning within a different classroom environment with a range of peers from other classes within their key stage. In order to limit class sizes, there will be a maximum of five pupils per class. We will continue to ensure that pupils are prepared and supported in the best possible way.

There will be no off-site visits taking place. Your child will have the opportunity to participate in hydro-therapy pool sessions in school. The class team supporting your child will inform you of the day this will be taking place.

Transport

We are aware that there may be significant transport issues for home/school transport due to the requirements around social distancing. If your child receives transport via Kent County Council, this will continue for those pupils attending school. If you do not hear from your transport provider to make arrangements for term six, please contact transport's main switchboard on 03000 418484

Arrival to and departure from school

To reduce crowding at the beginning of the school day:

- Primary students will start the school day at 9am and access the school building through the side gate nearest to the main field. Their school day will finish at 2pm to allow staff time to clean and washdown surfaces and resources.
- Secondary students will start the school day at 9.30am and access the school building through the side gate nearest to the life skills house. Their school day will finish at 2.30pm to allow staff time to clean and washdown surfaces and resources.

Students should remain in vehicles with parents/drivers/escorts until they are collected directly by a member of staff. Please remain in vehicles.

Staff will be available at both gates to take the temperature of students as they arrive.

Hand sanitising devices will also be available for students.

- Arrangements for Wouldham students will remain the same.
- Parents/carers and personnel from KCC transport must adhere to social distancing guidelines displayed around the school and leave the school premises as quickly as possible.
- All adults and pupils entering the school building must use the hand sanitiser provided.
- Except under exceptional circumstances, parents/carers should handover their child or young person at the two entrance gates and not come through reception.

Drop off and collection reminders – It is completely understandable that you want to get out of your car on arrival at the school especially if we have not seen you for some time. However,

please can I remind you that you must stay in your vehicle, following social distancing guidance, and wait for a member of staff to collect your child. Please wait until your child's temperature has been taken before leaving.

A further parent questionnaire will be coming out the week commencing Monday 15th June, and although we cannot guarantee a place or individual requests we will do our utmost to support you in these difficult times.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Jarred', written in a cursive style.

Scott Jarred – Headteacher