

12/06/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Term 6 Update – letter 17

In my last letter I wrote to you regarding the development of ‘Bubbles’ in school to further minimise the risk of spreading the COVID virus, and I wanted to provide some further information on this approach and its benefits;

- Students and staff 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.
- 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.
- The number of students we can currently have in school is based on the number of available rooms, the number of available staff and their training, as well as the ratio described above.
- We are also currently restricted by transport and catering. At present we are only able to have one lunch sitting.
- If there is a need to increase the number of students in a bubble, we will contact all the parents in the bubble first and look for your views. If there are concerns expressed regarding social distancing, we may need to reduce the number of available days for all the students in the bubble in order to allow other students into school.
- We may need to close bubbles or part of bubbles if we have normal staff sickness and are therefore unable to provide sufficient staffing. I apologise in advance if you receive a last-minute phone call informing you that your child will not be able to come into school.
- If we hear of any suspected cases of COVID i.e. staff or students displaying symptoms within a bubble, we will write to you in the first instance and ask you to be vigilant. If we are informed that after testing a case is positive the bubble affected will be closed for 14 days based on the current quarantine information. If the result of testing is negative we will also inform you of this.
- **In all cases, we would expect that testing is completed and the school is informed of the results.**
- The current staffing levels in school are not only due to vulnerable staff who are not able to come in. There are also a number of other reasons including staff who have their own children to look after who cannot access nursery or school provisions now that some mainstream classes are operational, or due to reduced hours.
- We are currently planning ahead for September with a focus on our medically vulnerable students coming back to school in micro bubbles.
- We may need to reduce the overall number of days currently being offered to your child at the end of term in order for us to accommodate students who have not been in school since March.
- ParentMail sign up; if you have not already signed up to ParentMail please see the schools Facebook page for more information.

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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.

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 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 will finish at 2pm.
- Secondary students will start the school day at 9.30am and finish at 2.30pm.

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

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 as communicated.

Drop off and collection reminders –

- **DO NOT TO LEAVE THE CAR PARK UNTIL TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN.**
- **PLEASE WAIT IN VEHICLES AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY.**

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Jarred – Headteacher