



Dedicated to the Happiness of all Our Children - Success No Matter What!

Principal Mr R Boyjoonauth LL.B (Hons), NPQH

'Dedicated to the Happiness of Our Children – Success No Matter What'

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 6

Firstly, I hope you and your families remain safe and well. These remain uncertain times and I am aware that some families may have suffered loss and bereavements. My sympathies and deepest condolences to those families.

I trust that the children are well. My staff have been making the third round of phone calls to families since lockdown and it has been lovely to speak with you all. I know that many of you expressed how much you appreciated the school checking in on the children.

The school is operating well under our new timetable. Pupils in Years R, 1 and 6 are coming in for morning or afternoon sessions. The small groups, with a maximum of 8 children, means that we are able to keep children and staff as safe as possible. Our numbers have begun to plateau and we are receiving approximately the same amount of children in each day. I of course respect parental decisions not to send pupils in, but with our stringent controls (regular hand washing and use of alcohol hand gel, temperature checks, small class sizes, deep cleans twice a day), we are able to provide an environment which is as safe as possible under these challenging circumstances. If you feel that you would like to send your child in, please let the office know so that we can make arrangements.

You will have heard on Tuesday that the Government announced that they did not intend to send the rest of primary pupils back until the autumn. This is of course a great shame. We know how much the children are missing school and we are also acutely aware of the impact on the children's educational welfare. Now that the Government have made their intentions clear, I am able to plan for the rest of the summer term.

Continuation of Morning and Afternoon Sessions; Capping of numbers

Having considered the recent report from SAGE, I am of the opinion that we still need to minimise risk as much as possible. Therefore, we will be continuing with our morning and afternoon sessions until the end of term (17th July). I do understand that this may cause inconvenience to families returning to work, however, I must be led by my statutory responsibility to keep pupils and staff as safe as possible. At the time of writing this letter the R rate remains relatively high and as a country, we are not quite out of the woods yet.

As our numbers have stabilised and we are now regularly receiving the same children in each bubble, I will be capping the numbers of children from the week beginning 22nd of June. Therefore,



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any children in Years R, 1 and 6 (as well as Key Worker children), who are attending up to and including the 17th June will be allowed to attend school for the rest of the term. We will not be accepting new pupils thereafter, except for Year 5 (see below) or Vulnerable pupils. Please inform the office if you would now like to send your child in next week, but note that we will not be accepting new pupils from the 18th June. Parents/Carers currently sending their children in do not need to inform us. Please note that there is an expectation that when you send your child in, that you commit to sending them in on a daily basis for the rest of the term. We are not providing child care – we are delivering a curriculum and preparing the children as best as possible for the next academic year.

Year 5

I am aware that our Year 5 pupils have a crucial year ahead of them next year. I therefore would like to open the school to Year 5 pupils whose parents/carers would be willing to send their child in. Can you please inform the office via the office email address (office@chattenden.medway.sch.uk) if you would like to send your child in from the 22nd June. Once we have looked at the numbers, we will then revert back to these families with the mode of operation and when to attend. Again, sessions will run on a morning OR afternoon basis, focusing on Maths and English.

Home Learning

I know that many parents were impressed with the Home Learning and the feedback that teachers were providing to pupils back in May. We had to temporarily suspend this when we re-opened on the 1st of June. Now that numbers have stabilised, I can deploy resources and staff accordingly. We intend from the 22nd of June to provide more detailed planning for pupils and we will once again give the opportunity for pupils to email their work in to a member of staff. More information on this will follow in due course. In the meantime, please continue with the learning that has been posted on the school website for each year group. It is important that the children follow a routine, so please do set a regular time for "Learning Time" and assign a suitable space. Continue to provide breaks throughout the day and do incorporate daily exercise as part of your daily routine.

There is a constantly changing landscape of Government narrative and scientific advice. The plans that I am proposing is what I determine fit at the time of writing this letter. I will remain flexible in my decision making and should the situation in the country improve dramatically, we may adapt our plans. It is a constantly difficult balancing act between the educational welfare of our pupils and keeping children and staff as safe as possible. This is not a precise science and we are regularly reviewing our plans and risk assessments. Hopefully the details above will provide a framework of how we intend to operate for the remaining weeks of term. In the meantime, stay safe and look after each other.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. R. Boyjoonauth

PRINCIPAL



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