



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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Chattenden Lane
Chattenden
Rochester
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ME3 8LF

13th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2020

I hope you are all keeping well and healthy. In these most strangest of times, the community has really come together to support one another. There have been many acts of kindness, far too many to list here, but you know who you are if you have made donations, offered to help vulnerable families, or provided assistance to the school – thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am also grateful for the kind messages of support that we have received during this time - it means a lot to us.

We are currently preparing for the September return. We simply cannot wait for the children to be back and once again we will be able to teach them, providing them with high quality learning. We do not underestimate the challenge that will be ahead, but we know that our children will be able to overcome the various difficulties and will thrive once more. We will be ensuring that in the first 2 weeks back, the children are emotionally settled at school and feel secure. There will be specific lessons on well being as part of their PSHE programme of learning (Personal, Social and Health Education).

Some of you may understandably be nervous about sending the children back in September. We are putting into place a series of control measures to ensure that children and staff are safe. We will be offering full time education, all day, from September, but there will be various adjustments, which are detailed in the accompanying document entitled: 'Arrangements for September'. Please take time to go through this with your children and explain the changes. I will also in due course be posting a video on the website explaining these arrangements and talk about the safety measures we are putting in place to keep your child safe. These arrangements vary from staggered drop off and pick up times, to split lunchtimes and pupils staying within 'bubbles' as far as practically possible. If you have any questions, please email the school office on the usual address: office@chattenden.medway.sch.uk or Mrs Carpenter on carpn001@chattenden.medway.sch.uk.

We ask that you send your child back on Thursday 3rd September 2020. Attendance will be compulsory. We look forward to welcoming our children back with open arms. In the meantime, I wish you a restful and safe summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. R. Boyjoonauth

Principal



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Arrangements for September 2020

In line with the Department for Education guidance, the two main principles that will be followed at school are: social distancing and keeping the children in 'bubbles'. We will be reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This will be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals. We are mindful that we also need to take into consideration the children's age when considering their ability to distance, the layout of the school and the feasibility of keeping 'bubbles' separate, whilst still offering a broad curriculum.

1. Bubbles

The 'bubbles' will be each individual class. Within the class, the children will not need to socially distance. It is recommended that they keep a certain distance from their teacher where possible. However, the bubbles must not mix as far as practically possible. This will minimise contact and still offers public health benefits, as it reduces the network of possible direct transmission. Maintaining these distinct bubbles that do not mix, makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case, to identify those who may need to self-isolate and keep that number as small as possible.

2. Staggered Drop Off and Pick Up times

There will be a staggered drop off and pick up time for the different year groups. Both the bottom and top school gates are to be used.

- Staggered entry and exit times
 - **8.30am-3pm: Year 6 (top gate) and Year 2 (bottom gate)**
 - **8.40am-3.10pm: Year 4 (top gate) and Year 1 (bottom gate)**
 - **8.50am-3.20pm: Year 5 (top gate) and Year R (bottom gate)**
 - **9am-3.30pm: Year 3 (bottom gate)**
- Parents/Carers will be asked to stay behind a temporary barrier on the school playground on the bottom third of the playground whilst dropping their children off.



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This is to keep everyone safe and socially distanced. Children can be dropped off from the barrier and then they can walk up into the school building as normal, via the 'Blue Corridor' or the Year 3/4 entrance door. At the top gate, parents will be allowed onto the car park to drop off the children, but no further.

- At the end of the school day, teachers will bring the children out to the barriers towards the bottom playground for the bottom gate pick up, or in the car park for the top gate pick up. (Children to be picked up from the same gate they were dropped off at).
- Siblings: Drop Off will be at the same time as the 'earliest' child that is due to be in school. For Pick up, at a set time – 3.15pm – children to be sent to the hall, gathered up and then taken down to the gate by an adult (this will be from the same gate they were dropped off at). Smilers to be sent up to the Library at 3.20pm as usual.
- Alcohol Hand Gel on entry - there will be various hand sanitising stations around the school and bubbles will be told about their specific station for them to use.

We are mindful of congestion at drop off and pick up times. We encourage walking where possible and please be considerate to local residents, particularly with parking. Please maintain social distancing.

3. Breaktime

There will be staggered breaks for the different year groups. Both playgrounds will be used throughout the day and the bubbles will be kept separate. The playground will be partitioned into different sections so that children know which part of the playground they can play in. As far as we can, we will use the school field, whilst the weather is good.

4. Lunchtime

There will be a staggered lunch hour across the school. This will mean that the children can sit with their bubble during lunchtime (in different areas of the school hall) and play outside with their bubble. Hot food will be served at lunchtime and Chartwells will be re-opening the canteen. Again, the playground will be partitioned into different sections so that children know which part of the playground they can play in. The children will have access to equipment such as the trim trail and The Brig. Children will need to hand sanitise both before and after use.

5. The Curriculum

Teachers and the Senior Leadership Team have given a great deal of thought to what the curriculum will be like in September. There will need to be an element of 'catch up', particularly in Core Subjects, to make up for the lost time in school. Other subjects may be scaled down until December, in order to allow for catch up in the key areas of Reading, Writing, Maths and Science. We are also very aware that our children need to be emotionally secure and ready for learning. There will be enhanced PSHE and wellbeing lessons. It is really important that as parents/carers you continue to support your child with Homework from September, as well as daily reading.



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It is likely that many events such as the Harvest Festival and Christmas celebrations will not be in the same format as in past years. We will give you more information on this in the autumn.

6. Breakfast Club and After school Clubs

A separate letter will follow with regards to Breakfast club. This will still run from 7.45-8.30am, but initially just for 'Stay and Play' only. Places will need to be reserved in advance. Please look out for the separate Breakfast Club letter.

Some after school clubs will re-start in September and details of these are to follow in the autumn term.

7. Regular Handwashing and sanitising

The children will be reminded on a regular basis to wash hands and hand sanitise. Please ensure that regular hand washing routines are maintained at home as well.

8. If someone falls ill

Remember that anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus must get a test. All children can be tested, including children under 5.

- If your child feels unwell and has a high temperature, has developed a persistent cough and/or a loss of taste or smell, they must get tested. If they test positive, you must inform the school immediately. The children must stay at home and continue to self isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school once they do not have symptoms. The 7 day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If your child still has a high temperature, they should keep self isolating until the temperature returns to normal. Other members of your household should continue to self isolate for the full 14 days.
- If your child falls ill at school with coronavirus symptoms, we will inform you immediately and your child will need to be collected.

If anyone in a bubble tests positive, we will contact the local health protection team to decide what steps need to be taken. It may be that a bubble may need to close down, and those concerned self isolate for 14 days. These pupils and staff members would also need to be tested.

9. Cleaning

Additional cleaning measures will continue to take place (as at present) to ensure that the environment is as clean as possible. Common touch points will be cleaned on a regular basis and additional disinfecting will take place of shared resources. We have external contractors carrying out daily cleaning/disinfecting, and we have a rigorous Risk Assessment in place, overseen by Mr Mackie, our Site Manager.



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10. Contacting the school and coming onto the school site

Until further notice, no parents will physically be allowed to visit the office without prior appointment. Enquiries can be made via phone and email. Visits to the school will need to be by prior appointment only.

11. Bringing items into school

The Government guidance allows for children to bring in a limited amount of equipment into school. Children should only bring in the essentials: lunchboxes, a snack for breaktime, hats/coats, school books. Stationery will be provided by the school and children will have their own individual pencil cases. Children will not need to bring in their pencil cases/stationery in September. Books will be allowed to go to and from school, but there will be a 'quarantine' period for books when they are brought back, before they are then shared with other pupils. Mobile phones are not to be brought into school by children.

12. School Uniform

As from September, full school uniform will be compulsory. PE Kit is to be worn during PE lessons. If you need to re-familiarise yourself with expectations around uniform, please see the link on the website: <https://www.chattenden.medway.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform> .

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to email Mrs Carpenter on carpn001@chattenden.medway.sch.uk .

Thank you.

Mr. Boyjoonauth

13.7.20



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