

4th June 2020

Coronavirus - COVID-19 – Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family continue to be well.

As you know, we welcomed back our Year 6 children on Tuesday, in addition to the children of key workers and those already attending school. Thank you to everyone for making this such a smooth transition. Considerable planning had gone into this next phase to ensure we could keep everyone as safe as possible. The children were delighted to be back, you as parents followed all the guidance laid out at each school and staff reported a 'good first day' to the wider opening of schools.

The systems have been tested and proven to be effective, we are ready to move to the next phase and welcome back children in Year 1. The results of the latest parent survey understandably indicate a smaller number of parents want to take up places for children in Year 1. We respect your decision either way and will continue to provide online learning in the usual way. Children from Year 1 who are not already attending school are welcome back from Monday 8th June. Heads will write to you separately with further details. The link to the latest survey results is here: <https://www.bridgeschools.co.uk/Downloads> the document title to navigate to is '2020 Return to School Parent Survey.pdf'.

We understand that childcare for working parents will become increasingly difficult as more workplaces open from mid-June but the government guidance for those included in the key worker group has so far not changed. The guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. Please only send your child if you are working in one of the identified key worker groups and need to access 'educare' from your child's school, we are currently unable to accept children from other working groups, not listed as key workers on the government website or children from Year 2-5 whose parents are not key workers. We are trying to keep numbers as low as possible in each class space to maximise social distancing. In some schools we may need to apply a cap to the number of children we can admit as more people want access to the service. For now, numbers are manageable but please only access provision if you need it.

One small change we will need to make to the week is to close all our schools on Friday afternoons for this half term to give us more time for the cleaning of rooms and equipment. Teachers will also take this time to complete additional administration and record keeping and planning for the activities on and offline for the following week. Children will have lunch and then go home on Friday afternoons. Again, heads will write to you separately regarding the timings at each school. This will start next week, Friday 12th June.

Thank you for your continued patience whilst we continue to expand provision. I will write to you again next week outlining our plans for EYFS.

With all good wishes,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools.