



## **Headteacher's Newsletter**

### **May 2020**

It has been a very different couple of months and I hope you are all safe and well. We can't wait to see everyone again and have little more normality.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all our staff. It has been a huge change and everyone has risen to the challenge and made every effort to support each other throughout this time. Our cleaners, premises manager and office staff who have kept the school clean, safe and running. Miss Piper who has continued the P.E. sessions in school. The Teaching Assistants who are coming in and working from home to develop their own and the children's learning. The Teachers who are setting high expectations on Kidblog whilst still trying to make it engaging, as well as coming in to teach. All our Senior Leaders and Governors who are continuing to support and safeguard the children in their many different roles. It is a team effort and I am so glad to have such a great team.

As always, thank you parents and children for everything. All of you are amazing and are supporting us in ensuring children are receiving their educational right.

#### **Kidblog**

Over 75% of children in all classes are accessing Kidblog and we know there are even more continuing home learning in their own way.

Thank you for your patience with us in the beginning as we found our feet. We know there have been many technical difficulties but we hope everyone is in a bit more of a rhythm.

We are now starting on trying to use Zoom and have more interaction with the class as a whole – so look out for these!

I am always so impressed with everything that is completed and posted on Kidblog and every fortnight it is so difficult to choose names for Celebration Assembly. Keep up all the hard work and just know how proud it makes us all feel.

#### **Secondary transition**

We are just starting to be approached by Secondary Schools to gain the information needed for successful transition and will be working with a range of schools to ensure the best transition possible.

As far as we know parent appeals are still going through and they will either be decided through the paperwork or using video conferencing. If you hear anything please keep us informed so that we can ensure a smooth transition. Secondary Schools will be working hard to ensure they have accurate admissions data for September.

If you are worried or concerned please contact us.

#### **Kent test**

We are currently unsure if the Kent test will go ahead in September but have been assured there will be a way of fairly judging entrance to grammar schools.

In light of this we will continue as normal and keep you updated as we know more.

As the registration for the Kent test is due to open 1<sup>st</sup> June, normally we would have the classes sit the Kent test and give you the scores to support you in your decision. We are putting out to you the Verbal and Non-verbal reasoning test so that your child can have a go and we will mark and give you advice based on that mark.

My advice would be to register your child even if you are unsure whether you want them to take the Kent test, as you can always change your mind, but after the registration closes in July you cannot register them.



# Enriching generations to serve and flourish

## Returning

Recently there has been a lot of press around the re-opening of schools with a provisional month of June.

We are awaiting further guidance on this which we believe will come by the end of this week and will keep you informed.

In readiness for this we have ordered more sanitiser, masks for our medical room, social distancing floor stickers and thermometers.

We have also set out some clear social distancing guidelines which we have shared with all our staff. We've planned for staggered play and lunchtimes to have fewer children in the hall and on the playground at one time.

With current social distancing in place we have planned that we can have up to 88 children in the school at one time, which will mean rotating of year groups but keeping some key worker spaces.

Obviously this is all dependent on the Government decisions and as soon as we have clarity we will be communicating our plan.

## SATS

SATs will be teacher assessed and teachers will now be looking at all your child's evidence including home learning to make an accurate assessment.

Luckily we managed to complete a mock SATs the week before lockdown which was very close in structure to give us a very good idea of what your child may have achieved. We were pleased as a school with the results, but will be ensuring that we look at all evidence to make our final judgements.

## End of year reports

We will be completing and sending out end of year reports as normal but we will remove attendance.

The teachers will be assessing children informally over the next few weeks to make their final judgements and writing these to ensure you receive this in a timely manner.

## Mental Health

This is a difficult time for all especially in terms of mental health so I just wanted to share some important numbers and websites

Child line – 0800 1111

Samaritans - 116123

Kent community Health NHS Foundation -

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/one-you-kent/>

Live well - <https://livewellkent.org.uk/>

## Bereavement

During these difficult times many families will experience or know of someone who has sadly passed. If you are concerned about how your child is dealing with this please contact us through the school office – 01732 843446 so that we can put you in touch with a service that may be able to support you further.

## Prayer

Lord above,

You have been the sword that has cut down the different agents that would have harmed me and my loved ones.

Now, I pray that You be my shield that'll protect me and my loved ones from all illnesses.

All I know is You, who has been with me and offering guidance to safe keep me.

So, Lord above, I pray that You protect me and my family throughout all occurrences in our lives.

I thank You for listening and answering this prayer and In Jesus Name I Pray,

Amen.