



Christ Church C of E Junior School
London Road
Ramsgate, Kent
CT11 0ZZ
Tel: 01843 593350

Email: headteacher@christ-church-ramsgate.kent.sch.uk

21st July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now at the end of what can only be described as a different and challenging year! I hope you and your families are well as we head into the summer period (**school closes at 2pm on Wednesday 22nd July**). I would like to thank all of you for your support over the past few months, through what has been a very difficult time.

Return to school in September

As you are all aware, the Government has recently released guidance for the full opening of schools for all pupils from September. This has confirmed that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the Autumn term. Within this there is an expectation that children will resume a full educational experience and those pupils who have SEND and health needs will once again receive full care support.

Implementing measures to create safer environments within schools remains a central focus of the guidance, but it is clear that many of the existing measures we have grown used to this term will change significantly in response to the decreased prevalence of coronavirus.

Schools have played a critical role in supporting all children and young people throughout the different stages of the pandemic that we have so far experienced, including providing provision in school for vulnerable children and those of critical workers, supporting home learning for all pupils and more recently welcoming every child whose parents requested a place across all year groups back into school.

This next phase will be the most challenging as we welcome every child back to school, whilst following the government's guidance to ensure the continued safety of both children and staff.

As the media has highlighted, we will be continuing to operate in newly formed 'bubbles' which are now allowed to be class sized. This will mean continuing to operate a rota system for many elements of the day that the children have become very familiar with over the last term. These include specific times for 'bubbles' to use the toilets, have breaks during the morning and the afternoon and have lunch within classroom areas. Staff contact will continue to be minimised through separate break times to ensure limited use of the staff room at any one time. A positive change is the welcoming back of Caterlink and Kate as our school cook, meaning the kitchen will once again be providing what we expect to be a menu driven service, with the children choosing their lunch in the morning and having it delivered to classrooms for the start of their lunch break.



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After examining our curriculum post lock down, teachers have established areas of study on which to focus, with each year group developing a 'catch up' curriculum for their pupils with individual subject leaders having an overview for their area of responsibility. As you would expect, the government have asked schools to focus on the delivery of key skills, so that children's progress is accelerated to address any gaps in their learning caused by the national closure of schools. It is for this reason that our curriculum will look slightly different from September, as we allocate more teaching time to core areas of study. For the majority of the school, this will be most notable by the additional arithmetic session which will focus on mental recall and the use of the four rules of calculation. By separating this area of maths it will provide additional time during the morning maths sessions to fill gaps in skill development caused by the lockdown. Other additional work will be focused around grammar and punctuation, but taught within the context of each year groups study topic, aiming to make the learning as relevant as possible to the pupils.

For our youngest children making the transition from year 2 to year 3, we aim for our infant trained teachers to continue to deliver the year 2 curriculum from March, particularly focusing on phonics, reading, handwriting to establish a cursive script and maths key skills to enable them the ability to access a challenging KS2 curriculum. To facilitate this and provide the support necessary, an additional member of staff will be working part time with the year group to ensure they make as much progress as possible before Christmas.

We are also waiting for more information from the DfE regarding the additional £1billion the government has pledged towards accelerating pupil progress, to ensure pupils have not missed out as a result of the schooling they have missed. More information will follow on this as additional guidance is revealed by the DfE.

Kent Test

As many year 5 parents and pupils are becoming anxious regarding the upcoming Kent test, the latest information to schools is that a decision will be made by the end of July as to any changes that KCC feel will be necessary to the testing procedure this year to ensure no child is disadvantaged by COVID-19. As discussed in my previous letter, this could mean a delay to the tests themselves and the option to select six schools instead of four on this year's SCAF (Secondary common application form). We will endeavor to share this information with year 5 parents as it becomes available.



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Breakfast and After School Clubs

Another facility we have been asked to potentially offer again are breakfast and after school club places, to support parents to be able to return to work. The guidance provided so far, however, means that these facilities would not be able to operate in their previous form e.g. football/netball clubs etc, but would instead take the form of classroom based child care with pupils being zoned to their own particular year group and not allowed to mix with those children outside this extended 'bubble'. As you can imagine this means operating in a completely different way for us in school and before we put plans in place we are seeking your opinions as to the level of interest in this offer. The link to complete this survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R39GNVN>

Staggered start to the school day

Another significant change requested by the DfE for September, is the implementation of a staggered start to the school day, with each year group having specific start and end times in order to ensure that groups are minimised to ensure safety when entering and leaving school. Having thought about the advantages and disadvantages for each year group, we have decided that with the winter months ahead of us, it would be safer for year 6 children who historically are the majority of our children that walk to and from school by themselves, to arrive in school by 8.30am to start their school day and leave by 2.30pm to begin the journey home. Conversely, for our new year 3 children, we have kept the timings as traditional as possible, with children arriving in school for the start of the school day by 9.00am and leaving at 3.00pm. Please contact the school office if you are likely to experience clashes with the pickup and drop off of siblings.

All children will receive exactly the same contact time with their teacher, with adjustments around shortening the lunch break providing the flexibility within the timetable. Please see the chart below for start and finish times for all year groups.

Year group	Start time	Finish time
Year 6	8.30 am	2.30 pm
Year 5	8.40 am	2.40 pm
Year 4	8.50 am	2.50 pm
Year 3	9.00 am	3.00 pm



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In addition, parents will need to continue to say goodbye to their children at either of the school gates (either on St. Mildred or London Road) in the morning. When collecting children at the end of the school day, the government guidance continues to recommend that the school operates a one-way system to maximise social distancing. The entrance for this will continue to be via St. Mildred's Road and the exit via London Road. We understand that this may be inconvenient for people, but is necessary in order to keep children, parents and staff as safe as possible.

School uniform and PE kits

From September, the latest guidance for schools suggests a whole school return to the use of school uniform. Our updated web page illustrating uniform requirements can be seen here: <https://www.christchurchjuniorschool.co.uk/index.php/school-uniform>

Therefore from September, we will be expecting every child in full uniform every day, **except** for the day on which they take part in PE. On this day, to support both safety within school and offer convenience for parents, we request that **school** PE kits are worn to school, on the day your child is timetabled for PE. In this way we aim to minimise the need for movement around the school and make our environment as clean and safe as possible. Year group PE days will be advertised during the first week back to school.

Staff Goodbye and Welcome

At the end of this academic year we will sadly be saying goodbye to Miss Whiscombe who is leaving after 4 years with the school, first training with us through the Schools Direct programme, leading on to becoming a qualified teacher. She is now seeking to extend her knowledge further by teaching at an International school based in Egypt. I am sure you will want to join us in saying a big thank you to Miss Whiscombe for her contributions to Christ Church Junior School, particularly the school choir and wish her all the best for the future. In September, we look forward to Mrs Murdoch joining the year 4 teaching team, having developed a good understanding of expectations at the end of KS2 and continuing to think of creative ways of developing our art provision further throughout the school. A recently published article written by Mrs Murdoch for the NSEAD (National Society for Education in Art and Design) can be read here:

<https://www.christchurchjuniorschool.co.uk/media/attachments/2020/07/21/nike20page207.pdf>



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Thank you to staff and children

I hope you will join me in thanking school staff that have worked so hard since schools closed in March, either delivering lessons for those keyworker children who have attended school continuously throughout this pandemic, including the Easter and half term breaks, or preparing work for those children working from home.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic summer and hope everyone connected with the school enjoys the time they get to have with their families, be that abroad (possibly!) or whilst staying at home. I look forward to seeing everyone return to school on **Tuesday 1st September 2020 (see year group start times above)** and hopefully experience a little more normality around our lives.

Finally, a special goodbye goes to all of the children in year 6 who are of course heading off to their new schools, unfortunately having missed out on many of the traditional leavers events due to COVID-19. May I wish each of them the best of luck for the future and thank them for everything they have given to the school during their time with us.

All the best,

N. Tucker

Mr N Tucker
Headteacher



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