



Headteacher **Mr. G Bartrum**

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Dear Parent/Carer

Term 6 - COVID-19 Update

We hope that our pupils and their families are keeping safe and well. This letter sets out the school's position for our re-opening phase, with Health and Safety and emotional wellbeing a priority for pupils, parents and staff. We are all continuing to face the extraordinary challenges which are affecting all parts of society. Our staff have risen to these challenges, dealing with difficult circumstances with professionalism, resilience and remarkable dedication.

Coronavirus

The main symptoms of coronavirus have been revised to reflect the new symptoms that are occurring. If your child or one of your family members has one of the symptoms below, please inform a member of the leadership team immediately.

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

We are currently conducting individual pupil risk assessments, however, we continue to recommend, and encourage, that those pupils with the most vulnerable medical conditions continue to socially distance for the advised 12-week period. This means that they should remain at home if safe to do so.

We will be planning to gradually open the school to additional pupils week commencing 8th June 2020 **but only if we are able to proceed safely.**

Home Learning

Please continue to access our home learning page on the school website so your child's learning can continue while at home. If you require any additional support or any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that you can speak to your child's class teacher or Hub Leader.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will have received telephone calls from a member of staff regarding e-vouchers available whilst your child is at home. Further calls will continue to be made to ensure that vouchers are being distributed when required.

Term 6 Events

We have made the decision to cancel or postpone all Term 6 school events, such as Sports Day, Year 11 leavers, school performances and achievements afternoon, due to Government guidelines. We know that this is highly disappointing news for our pupils, parents and staff but believe that we must take these necessary measures to reduce large numbers of our school community congregating together in the school at any one time.

Revised arrangements and procedures that will be implemented on 8th June 2020

Timetable and Class Groupings

Your child may not be following their usual timetable and may be learning within a different classroom and range of pupils from within their key stage. Pupils will be in Classes/bubbles, with a maximum of three pupils per bubble, mainly staying with those pupils and staff on each day they are in school. However, this will be slightly different for some pupils from the vocational hub. To avoid the possible spreading of Covid-19 they will have minimal contact with other pupils and staff. To maximise the number of pupils re-attending school each pupil will have a maximum of two days in school a week, other than exceptional circumstances. By keeping pupil numbers low (Maximum of 24) we will be able to prioritise social distancing and health and safety throughout the school.

From the 8th June we will be changing to class based learning programmes. We will continue to ensure that pupils are prepared and supported in the best possible way. Along with government guidelines we are offering education to Year 1 and Year 6. We will also continue to offer education to the vulnerable pupils who have been attending since March.

Year 1 pupils

Mr Cooper is discussing this with parents. These pupils will be mainly based in Sharks class.

Year 6 pupils transitioning to Secondary

Mr Bartrum has spoken to parents regarding this. They will be with the teacher they would be having from September. It will be either Katie Nelson or Jess Hallett. They will initially do one day a week in the secondary phase of the school. This may be increased in late June as part of the school's 'Growth Phase'. Days to be confirmed by 4th June.

Year 10 pupils

Mr Jones or Mrs Griffey will contact all Year 10 parents to discuss an appropriate programme for them. If they do not come into school subject teachers will discuss coursework and work expectations with them. Along with Government guidelines this will start from June 15th.

There will be no off-site education courses or visits taking place for Term 6. Your child will have the opportunity to participate in Forest School sessions in school if they wish to do so.

Transport

If your child receives transport via Kent County Council, this will continue for those pupils attending school. If you do not hear from your transport provider to make arrangements for Term 6, please contact transport on 03000 413735.

If possible it may be more appropriate for parents to transport their children themselves at this difficult time.

Cathy Webb will liaise closely with transport to support any issues. Rowhill School can take no responsibility for the social distancing or other safety practices that may be take place on KCC transport vehicles.

Arrival to and departure from school

To reduce crowding at the beginning and end of the school day, from 8th June start and end times will be staggered. See below for details:

- Year 1 transition pupils will arrive at 9.30 and be collected at 2.00 (Or before if they are part time)
- Year 6 transition pupils will arrive at 10.00 and be collected at 2.15
- Remainder of Primary pupils (Vulnerable) will arrive at 9.00 and be collected at 2.00
- Vulnerable pupils from Transition Hub (Years 7, 8 & 9) will arrive at 9.15 and be collected at 2.30

- Vulnerable pupils from Vocational Hub (Years 10 & 11) will arrive at 9.45 and be collected at 2.45
- Parents/carers and personnel from KCC transport must adhere to social distancing guidelines displayed around the school and leave the school premises as quickly as possible.
- All adults and pupils entering the school building must use the hand sanitiser provided.

Breaktime and Lunchtime Arrangements

All pupils will have staggered lunch and break times and will go outside to their designated playground for breaks and maintain social distancing where possible.

Classroom configuration and layouts.

- Pupils will be asked to stay in one classroom/area as much as possible. This will help to reduce cross contamination.
- To ensure that classrooms are prepared and risk-assessed against the spread of Covid-19 teachers and teaching assistants will complete a Classroom Risk-Assessment form.
- Pupils will have their own desk and equipment and not share pens, pencils etc.
- There will be a maximum of 3 pupils per class.
- The Sports Hall will be closed. PE will be held outside.
- There will be a maximum of 12 pupils in the lunch hall.
- Each class will have cleaning equipment such as anti-bacterial spray and wipes to clean surfaces between lessons, hand sanitiser and soap, as well as aprons gloves, goggles and masks if staff feel it is required.
- Each member of staff will carry out their own classroom/area risk-assessment to support minimal cross contamination.
- Soft toys will be removed from the classroom.
- Pupils will bring in their own labelled drinks bottles or use a disposable cup.

Social Distancing throughout the school day

- Pupils should remain at a safe distance from one another when moving around the school or participating in lessons. Floor markings will be used to show the 2m distance and arrows will make many areas of the school one way systems.
- Music will be taught in the music room. The use of musical instruments will be restricted to those that can be sanitised between use.
- PE lessons will be outside wherever possible. Pupils will be kept at a safe distance from one another while changing.

We continue to follow the Government social distancing guidelines and will be encouraging our pupils to regularly wash their hands and follow the two-metre distancing requirement, helping pupils to understand personal space where possible. Our Speech and Language Team have produced visual supports to aid pupils' understanding during these difficult and different times.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Bartrum
Head Teacher

Mr S Jefferys
Chair of Governors