



Chesham Preparatory School

Dear Parents,

Good afternoon.

Most of the newsletter today concerns the arrangements for the return to school after half-term. Before I begin to update you on these details I just wanted to say how impressed and delighted we have been with all the children's efforts so far this half term. The teachers are full of amazing stories about how well the children have adapted to remote learning and there are so many wonderful examples of a super standard of work. The children continue to be diligent, motivated and resourceful and I sincerely congratulate them on their efforts. The mood in staff zoom meetings is incredibly positive and we cannot wait to see some of the children return after the half-term break.

Following the latest Government guidelines, Chesham Prep is planning to reopen for pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on Monday 1st June. The Government has made it clear that the return to school is conditional on coronavirus figures at that time and therefore we will await definite confirmation during the half-term break at the end of May.

However, I thought it would be useful to lay out our plans at this stage so everyone is aware of what to expect on 1st June.

Nursery

Start time: 9.00-9.15am

Finish time: 3.00pm

Entrance/exit: Wooden gate in the Early Years play area

Reception

Start time: 8.45-9.00am

Finish time: 3.15pm

Entrance/exit: Wooden gate in the Early Years play area

Year 1

Start time: 8.30-8.45am

Finish time: 3.30pm

Entrance/exit: Blue gate by the main school car park

Year 6

Start time: 8.15-8.30am

Finish time: 4.00pm

Entrance/exit: Blue gate by the main school car park

At present we are assessing staffing levels, with remote learning continuing in most year groups and therefore, at present, I cannot give you precise details of which classes will be able to attend school on which days. I will send on this information as soon as possible. To help us plan, if you are a parent in one of the year groups above, could you please fill in the e-form attached to this letter indicating whether your child will be returning on 1st June.

The relevant Government advice on attending school is as follows:

We strongly encourage children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of critical workers) to attend, as requested by their school or college, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).

You should notify your child's school or college as normal if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss with you.

Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Further advice for parents and carers can be found in the following document:

[Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June 2020: guidance for parents and carers](#)

Other relevant information on the return to school can be found by following the links below:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)

[Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](#)

Arriving at School

Parents are requested to use the main school car park and for the children to stay in the car until the gates are opened. Members of staff will be on the school gate to direct the children to their classes. Parents are unable to access the school site and it would help if parents could stay in the car if possible. The drop-off for different year groups is staggered so please arrive in the correct 15 minute time frame. Nursery and Reception will enter school through the wooden gate at the back of the Early Years play area.

Social Distancing

The children will be encouraged to follow social distancing in school although we know this will be very tricky, especially with younger pupils. Measures will include:

- Class sizes will be a maximum of ten.
- Frequent hand washing.
- Break, lunch, pick up and drop off times will be staggered.
- Packed lunches (on the school field whenever possible) to avoid congestion in the dining room. Please provide a packed lunch for your child.
- Water bottles and pencil cases to be brought in from home.
- Marked areas and tape placed around school to ensure social distancing.
- Regular cleaning of surfaces and equipment through the day.
- Restricting the sharing of equipment, rooms and corridors.

Curriculum

In Nursery, Reception and Year 1 the teaching will be shared by class teachers and teaching assistants. The children in these years will follow a timetable as close to their normal timetable as possible. Obviously, some of the subject specialist teaching they would usually enjoy will not be available.

For children in these younger year groups who are not able to return on 1st June, limited online learning will still be available. The content of this provision will depend on how many children return to school on 1st June. Obviously, if class teachers are back in school only a basic provision would be available.

Year 6 will continue to follow the remote learning timetable that has been in operation since the beginning of this term. The same teaching ratio of 1:10 will be employed in Year 6 meaning there will be up to six classes running in separate rooms. As we will continue to follow the remote learning provision, with a teacher or teaching assistant in each class to assist the learning, it would be very helpful if the children could bring in a laptop or portable device e.g. an iPad/tablet from home as well as a headset if possible. School resources are limited and we would struggle to provide enough devices for all pupils. This also enables us to limit the sharing of equipment/resources helping to minimise the risk of the virus spreading.

Children in Year 6 who are unable to return will still be able to access the remote learning that the rest of the year will be following apart from live Zoom meetings.

Lunchtime

Lunchtimes will be staggered and lunch will be eaten outside whenever possible. On rainy days lunch will be eaten in classrooms. Please provide your child with a packed lunch each day remembering, of course, that all lunches must be NUT free. A snack will be required for break time and the children will need water bottles from home; these can be refilled during the day.

Illness

If your child is unwell please do not send them into school no matter how minor the ailment or symptoms.

School Uniform

School uniform will not be needed. We plan to run a PE session for the children each afternoon so they will need to wear comfortable clothing that is also suitable for physical activity. The reason for this is to eliminate the need for the children to change during the day.

Leaving School

At the allotted time the children will be brought to the school gate and the teacher will let each child leave once the parent or carer has been seen. Please follow social distancing rules at this time and try to stay in or near cars as much as possible.

Siblings

If you are a parents of siblings attending school then both/all children can leave school at the earlier pick up time.

I hope I have been able to give you a basic picture of our plans at present. I will send more information next week.

Finally, can I just bring your attention to a PTA initiative. Usually at this time of the year we would be preparing to celebrate the May Fair. As this is not possible the PTA are running a 'Guess the name of the PTA sloth' competition to lift spirits and raise money for local charities. The flyer with further details is attached and I will be announcing the winner in next week's virtual assembly.

My very best wishes for the weekend.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Beale". The signature is written in black ink and has a horizontal line underneath it.

Mr J Beale
Headmaster