



Newsletter extra – Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear parents,

Complacency

We went for a family cycle ride at the weekend through lanes which are usually very quiet and peaceful (more than ever during the lockdown) but which on Sunday were filled with impatient/incompetent drivers desperate to get to goodness knows where.

This means that either the number of people taking essential journeys through the Ashdown Forest has increased exponentially, or that the lockdown seems to be over in all but name. The roads are almost as busy as before, although drivers seem to be in even more of a hurry. Many pedestrians no longer attempt to avoid getting too close to others on footpaths. As more people have been regularly venturing out, this has become normal and people are now increasingly blasé about what was (and is) a significant threat. I completely understand the desire to return to normality (although not the driving around at speed on country lanes).

The evidence suggests that COVID-19 is transmitted very easily between people, so all of our cleaning, handwashing and carefully planned arrangements will be for nothing if members of our community begin to relax the necessary boundaries. The lockdown began to ease/break down around two weeks ago, so although infection and mortality rates seem low at present, we do not yet know how this easing will play out.

Please can I ask parents not to allow this complacency to spill over into the school run. If we have a confirmed case among our school community, we may have to close to all children. I am sure you agree that after the success of reopening and the return to something approaching normality (for some of our children), going back to square one is almost unthinkable.

Please help by ensuring you and your children arrive at school at your allotted time, and not a few minutes early or late. Just a few parents and children arriving a little earlier/later than necessary can result in crowding in the school car park as they then meet parents on time to drop/off collect from other pods.

Please maintain social distancing from other parents and their children on the school run and keep younger children under your immediate control while on the school site. If they arrive on a bike or scooter, please carry this yourself while you are dropping off or picking up. Please remember that you share a responsibility as member of a wider community, among whom are vulnerable individuals.

Thanks to all of you, as always.

School phased reopening – phase 3

We are pleased to be able to open for children in Year 6 from Monday 15th June. I will send a letter to parents with children in Year 6 and key workers tomorrow to give more detailed guidance on how this will be organised. We will also be reorganising/merging some key worker pods in order to make this possible. Details of this will also be in the letter.



Feedback

If your child attends school as part of a key worker pod, they will receive their feedback verbally in class and may no longer receive emailed feedback from the teaching team. Any feedback that is emailed is our teachers going above and beyond what we have asked of them.

Celebrations

With the school now more complex with ever before with pods, key workers and home workers we have decided to suspend celebration assemblies. We feel that we cannot adequately/fairly praise all the children in their various situations in the way that we would like to. We will let you know when we can start our weekly celebrations again.

Free School Meals

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

If you think your child might qualify for a Free School Meal, please use the link above to register. Once your application has been approved, we will be notified and will contact you about how your child(ren) can receive a Free School Meal or equivalent financial support.

Thank you as always for your kind support and good wishes.

John Tutt

June 2020

Class email addresses:

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