

Wednesday 26th August 2020

Good morning,

I hope you have been enjoying the summer and I'm sure you are in the process of getting ready for the children to return to school. I know I haven't been in touch much over the summer but after bombarding you with posts over the last six months I thought you would appreciate a break.

In terms of returning to school very little has changed over the summer. The guidance for schools was last updated on the 7th August but this clarified rather than changed provision – that advice can be read in full at -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Advice and guidance for parents was last updated on the 21st August. You can find it by following this link -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

As we approach the return, I thought it may be useful to repost the information we sent to you on July 20th - with the details about how the return will be managed for infant and juniors. I will post the two letters above following this post.

Over the course of the summer the school has been working hard to make sure that the return to school will be as safe as possible. We spent the last three days of last term working with staff on how school will be managed and adapting the physical environment. We will also be spending the INSET day next week updating staff on policies and procedures.

Over the summer, we have considerably increased handwashing facilities across the school. With extra sinks in each classroom, the hall toilets, as well as outside sinks on the junior playground and the rear of the school. Hand sanitisers have also been placed at entrance and exit points.

Over the summer we have also had some works done to improve the reception class outdoor area. We have also had part of the school fence moved to increase our space for outdoor learning/forest school.

The school and the PTFA have been working hard to provide new resources, with new tablets arriving next week, along with a huge selection of non-fiction books that are linked to accelerated reader.

We are also looking forward to welcoming new children, not only in reception class but across other year groups in the school.

One slightly sad bit of news is that Ms Chalk is leaving Brookland. I would like to thank her for all her hard work. She will be really missed. Ms Chalk is off to explore some exciting new adventures. We are in the process of recruiting a replacement and have lots of applications for the role. We are planning to interview and appoint during the first two weeks of term.

We will obviously update you should guidance change. As you have seen from the last few weeks that guidance to schools can literally change overnight with no warning.

If you have any questions or concerns, could I ask that you direct them to me at headteacher@brookland.kent.sch.uk or message through Dojo.

Just to clarify a few of the questions that have been asked

- currently children in primary schools do not need to wear facemasks
- the children do not need book bags when they return.
- tracksuits should be worn on a Tuesday - black or grey are fine
- all reading books should be returned on the first day so that we can store them and clean them. It is our intention to allow children to borrow books from school, we will just manage it differently.

Please take the time to read through the information above and we look forward to welcoming you back next week.

In the meantime, as always - take care, stay safe, stay well.

With my very best wishes

Mr H.