

Newsletter

Friday 11th September

**Brenchley & Matfield
CE Primary School**
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OFSTED Rated: GOOD and SIAMS (School Inspections of Anglican & Methodist Schools) Rated: GOOD
A recognised centre of excellence for training new teachers

“Love each other as I have loved you,” John 15 v 12
Integrity, Humility, Compassion, Forgiveness and Grace

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first of this academic year’s Newsletters. It goes without saying that it has been wonderful to see all the children and staff back into school. We have literally had children skipping into school this week. The children at Brenchley and Matfield never cease to amaze me, they have all settled back into school life and the new routines so well I am extremely proud of them all. Thank you to all the parent and carers for supporting and preparing your children to return to school so well. Our New Reception children have also settled beautifully into being in their new environment and have enjoyed spending time with their new friends and new teachers. We look forward to them staying for longer days next week. Below I have tried to make a list of the Frequently Asked Questions to support everyone with some of the new routines and procedures in school. I’m sure that this will be a weekly feature as we encounter more queries and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you need further clarification about anything. We are all in this together and are navigating our way through the “new” normal.

Has the school completed a risk assessment following governments guidelines ?

The school has completed a full risk assessment to ensure that all children, staff and families are safe return to school.

What do I do if my child has a temperature and or continuous cough and/or loss of smell and taste ?

Please keep your child off school and any siblings. Inform the school and apply for your child to be tested. You will need to isolate for 10 days, 14 days for other members of the family or until a negative test is received. Your child, when well will be able to return to school. Please see the attached guidance the school is following from PHE south East Health Protection Team.

What are the protocols and times or Dropping off and Pick up times?

Please refer to the grid below for dropping off and pick up times. There have been some adjustments to pick up times for Reception children to allow for a smoother end of the day. Drop off has been very smooth and seamless and we will endeavour to do the same at the end of the day.

	Arrival time and entry point	End of school day pick up and exit point
R	8.40-9.00am at Reception door	3.00pm from Reception door
1	8.40-9.00am at front door	3.20pm from year 1 door
2	8.40-9.00am at front door	3.15pm from year 2 door
3	8.30-8.50am at front door	3.15pm from year 3 gate
4	8.30-8.50am at front door	3.25pm from year 3 gate
5	8.30-8.50 am at front door	3.20pm from front door
6	8.30-8.50 am at front door	3.25pm from front door

When you have collected your child please can you swiftly move away from the collection points and avoid standing in groups.

How often are children washing their hands ?

Children are washing their hands on entry and exit of classrooms, before and after snack, before and after eating lunch and if they sneeze or cough.

Does my child need to bring a snack into school ?

Reception and key stage 1 children are provided with a healthy fruit snack . Key stage 2 need to bring a healthy snack for break time (no crisps, chocolate and sweets) AND **NO NUTS** or **NUT BASED SNACKS**

Are visitors still allowed in school ?

Yes but we are keeping this to only essential visits and we are keeping a record for track and trace purposes.

Can I book an appointment to see my child's class teacher ?

Yes , to do this please contact the school office and the class teacher will either book a telephone conversation , a zoom call or a face to face meeting (socially distanced).

Are volunteers still allowed in school?

At the moment we are imbedding our protocols and procedures and we are limiting the amount people in the school buildings. Once we feel it is safe to do so volunteer readers , for example, will be invited back into school.

Are extra curricular clubs taking place ?

At the moment no as we are imbedding our protocols and procedures and once we feel it is safe to do so extra curricular clubs will start up again.

Can my child bring a reading book home ?

Yes , please refer to individual class curriculum letters for the procedures for returning books to school and the quarantine procedures.

Will my child still have home work ?

Please see individual class curriculum newsletter for Individual class systems for recording home work.

What happened to my child's learning if the school or class bubble goes into lockdown ?

In the unlikely event this happens the school and class teachers will be ready to start online learning through class dojo , which was used very successfully during lockdown. We are aware of the families without internet access and we will continue to support them.

How are children catching up on any lost learning ?

All our staff are very skilled and are being supported nationally and through our current Maths and English schemes which have produced extensive plans to support all children with any filling any gaps in learning This is called the "Recovery Curriculum" We are not formally testing any children in the first few weeks back at school and as skilled practitioners we are continually providing all children with the support they need to access the curriculum. We also monitored all children's learning throughout lockdown and all children's engagement with learning has been shared with new class teachers and supporting adults in the new classes.

Can I bring sweets to school when its' my child's birthday ?

Yes but only sweets in a wrapper , children will need to eat these at home.

When will the canteen start providing hot meals for children?

We are liaising with the catering company and our kitchen team to look at providing hot meals. As soon as we are able to work through our protocols and systems to ensure that all children and staff are able to use the school canteen safely, we will begin to provide hot meals for all children.

How are the staff in school keeping themselves safe ?

Where possible our staff are working in the same bubbles as the children and are socially distancing themselves at lunchtimes and break times. All staff are being vigilant about hand washing and cleanliness and providing extra support with cleaning frequently touched surfaces .

I would like to wish you and your family a lovely weekend

Jane Mallon Head Teacher

BRENCHLEY AND MATFIELD PTFA NOTICEBOARD

As is the case for everyone, life is looking a little different for the PTFA this academic year. Sadly our traditional events at this time of year such as Apple Day, The Big Cheese & Fireworks will not be able to proceed given the current Government guidelines.

However we are busy planning to ensure that we can still offer the children some popular events such as discos & film nights this term to try & maintain a sense of "normality" (albeit in their smaller bubbles) but also raise some much needed funds for them too!

In addition, we are of course also looking at some new ways we can raise funds in the current situation whilst still encouraging the sense of community & connection for the children & parents that our events aim to promote.

So please keep a look out for updates on our noticeboard (to the right of the main front doors) & also via this Newsletter & Classlist.

In the meantime if you are interested in joining the team or would like to find out more about volunteering with the PTFA, please feel free to contact me on 07788 544361 or join our first meeting of the term on Thursday 17th September at 7.45pm via ZOOM using the following link.... <https://a2dominion.zoom.us/j/87347754561>

Many thanks
Hannah Smithson
Chair PTFA (Mum of Jacob Year 6 & Amy Year 2)

GOLDEN BOOK ENTRIES

We are celebrating the achievements of:-

Reception: Everyone, Year 1: Zach & Lola; Year 2: Arthur & Lilly-Anne; Year 3: Isaac & Felix; Year 4: Phoebe & Sienna; Year 5: Lucas & Freya and Year 6: Amber Amelia & Isabella.

BREAKFAST CLUB - A Gentle Reminder

Mr Miller, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Booth stop serving breakfast at 8.15am to allow them to tidy up. If you would like your child to have a breakfast they must arrive before 8.15am.

Thank you for your co-operation.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The school's weekly attendance will be shown here along with the best class attendance and the number of late entries in the registers. This will begin next week. For information, the whole school weekly attendance should be 98%.

DIARY DATES

End of Term 1—Friday 23rd October
INSET Day—Monday 2nd November
Term 2 Starts—Tuesday 3rd November

Nasal Flu Immunisation Programme
18th November—details to follow