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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am now in a position to outline our plans for the return of classes over the coming term. It has always been our intention for all classes to return at some point before the summer holiday as we recognise how important it is psychologically and socially for the children. The only way we can manage this with the space and staff available is by having the children back on a rota for two days a week. Children will attend either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday. Both groups will be taught by their own class teacher/s in their normal classroom. Please note, however, that children will not be able to attend both the keyworker and class group in the same week.

Thank you to Year 6 and Year 5 parents for completing the surveys. You will be emailed separately with details about which group your child is in.

We are looking forward to welcoming back Year 6 next week. The reason for prioritising Y6 is that they need a sense of closure and a chance to say goodbye to their friends/teachers as well as a proper transition for secondary school.

Year 5 are returning the following week (beginning June 22nd) because they need to do an important test before they take the Kent Test in September. This test is externally marked so needs to be done the week beginning June 22nd in order that we have the results back before the summer holiday.

Our proposal for the return of year groups is as follows:

Week beginning ...	Class returning
June 15th	Year 6
June 22 nd	Year 5
June 29th	Year 4, Year 3, Wrens
July 6th	Owls, Jays

The logistics involved in organising the groups and staff is significant so we will organise the groups and inform you which group your child will be in next week so that you have time to prepare. The first step in organising the groups is ensuring that siblings attend on the same days as far as possible.

Attendance is not compulsory and if you know that your child is not going to return this term, please contact the office to let us know.

The above plan is dependent on staff availability and is subject to change if the R rate increases. Should staff numbers reduce, priority will be given to the key worker groups.



Home-School Agreement

Guidelines, that we consider a home-school agreement, will be emailed to you with this letter. If your child is returning to school, we will assume that you are agreeing to follow the guidelines. It is very important that the timings for drop off and pick up are followed to avoid having too many people on site. Timings for each class are set out at the end of the guidelines. There is a one-way system in operation that is clearly signposted for entering and leaving the school premises. In the event of your child having any coronavirus symptoms, it is important for the whole school community that you arrange for them to be tested. Details about this are also given in the guidelines.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue this term but once the class is in school, teachers will not be able to maintain the same amount of planning. Plans will cover the three days the children are not in school and an open-ended project for those children who are unable to attend.

We still have a few laptops available if any of you need to borrow one for your child. Please contact the school office for more information.

Key Worker groups

These groups will continue to operate every day but as more children return we will have to merge the two key stage groups. At the moment the groups are fairly full. It is important that you email me (headteacher@barham.kent.sch.uk) rather than the office, about any changes as several of you have changing shift patterns. This needs to be done by Thursday for the following week.

As the school has remained opened throughout the whole of the lockdown period, we will be closing the school to all pupils on July 17th for the published summer holiday.

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents that have taken the time to contact school to share their appreciation of the home-learning lessons that teachers have produced. Teachers have certainly worked creatively to set home-learning tasks, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones to produce film clips, narrate PowerPoints and set up Zoom sessions, as well as giving feedback and guidance to individual parents. Behind the scenes, the teachers' WhatsApp group has been constantly pinging with messages trying to work out the best way to keep the learning fresh for your children. In addition to preparing work for your children, teachers have been in school for the key worker groups and as parents themselves, supported their own children with their home learning. Staff have gone above and beyond in every sense and I am immeasurably grateful to all of them.

I wish you all a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



Alison Higgins