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August 31st 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all managed to have a good break and that your children are all looking forward to returning to school on Friday, September 3rd.

Latest Guidance for the Department for Education

The Department for Education has recently released their guidance for the new academic year. Schools have been told that staggered starts/finishes, face coverings, bubble restrictions and social distancing are no longer expected. As mentioned in the last letter of term, children and staff can continue to wear face masks if preferred and whilst we will continue to act in line with government guidance for now, we will monitor the situation closely and revert to tighter restrictions if necessary. I check the Barham/Bridge rates of COVID every week along with the wider district around Canterbury and frequently amend the risk assessment according to the local situation. If you have any questions or would like to see the risk assessment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

HEPA Filters and Carbon Dioxide Monitors

The school has already purchased some HEPA filters (air purifiers) and carbon dioxide monitors that will be used to test the quality of the air in classrooms. We will be ordering more HEPA filters so that each classroom has one to help keep air as clean as possible.

Positive Cases of COVID

Schools no longer have the responsibility of contacting 'close contacts' of positive cases but it is important that we are aware of any cases of COVID in the immediate family. If anyone tests positive within the family setting, pupils no longer need to complete ten days of self-isolation but they will need to take a PCR test. If the child's test result is negative, they may return to school providing they remain free of any symptoms.

Timings and Meet the Teacher Sessions

Dates and timings of the school day/Meet the Teacher sessions were sent to you in the last week of term. Here is a link to the letter:

<https://barham.kent.sch.uk/assets/documents/letters/letter-14.7.21.pdf>



Parent email/texts

Disappointingly, the provider for parent email/texts has not been able to restore the service over the summer holiday despite their reassurances. We are now changing provider and hope to have it all set up by the end of the first full week back. In the meantime, please check the parent WhatsApp and Facebook pages for any alerts to school correspondence. All letters will be published on the website.

Finally, a huge thank you for all the kind messages, cards and gifts you gave to staff at the end of the year. Your support of the school has meant so much to all of us.

We are all looking forward to seeing you and the children again on Friday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Al Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Alison Higgins
Headteacher