

BRONTË HOUSE SCHOOL

brontehouse.co.uk

17th June 2020

Dear Parents

I do hope that this letter finds you well and that you have managed to navigate the period of lockdown successfully and, most importantly, safely.

The purpose of my communication is to provide you with some details regarding the activity in school in recent weeks and also to provide some initial information in relation to a return to school before the summer holidays.

As many of you are aware, following the half-term break and as per the Government's directive, we welcomed Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children back to school in 'bubbles' of no more than 15 children; that is in addition to four bubbles of key worker children who have consistently been in attendance throughout the period of school closure. The relevant guidelines stipulate that each bubble must have consistent members of staff with no mixing of staff or children between bubbles; staggered drop off, collection and break times; separate bathroom facilities; separate entrances and exits to school buildings and deliberately designed routes around the school to ensure no mixing takes place. It currently takes us three hours to serve lunch to a little over 100 children, as the Dining Room has been reduced to less than 20% of its usual capacity and all classrooms, bathrooms and corridors are being cleaned by our amazing site team four times every day.

Classrooms have been re-organised in order to allow for social distancing and bubbles of 15 children are occupying two adjacent classrooms. The classrooms at Brontë weren't built to accommodate classes of 30, as in the maintained sector; so, reducing to bubbles of 15 means that we require additional space to keep our staff and children safe: Mrs Abbott's Year 1 bubble of 12 children currently occupies the full suite of Year 1 classrooms on the ground floor. By Monday next week, we will have 12 separate bubbles operating across the school site. As I'm sure you can appreciate, this has been an incredibly challenging puzzle to crack!

Late on Monday afternoon, and after much deliberation, the Government released new guidance to schools regarding the return of children in other year groups before the summer break. Clearly, there are additional pressures for independent schools as we finish for the holidays in a little over two weeks. This aside, we are absolutely committed to ensuring that all of our children are given the opportunity to return to Brontë, if only for a few days, before the end of term.

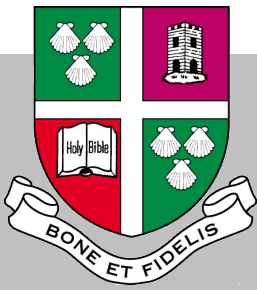
Safety and the wellbeing of our entire community will remain the first priority and, with this in mind, and with space on site in short supply, we have devised a plan to allow each year group to return to school for two days to spend time with friends and school staff before we finish on 3rd July. We cannot guarantee that children will be placed with class teachers as, with bubbles of no more than 15, we will need to use teaching assistants and support staff to oversee some groups. We are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather; in which case, the children will be outside for most of the day and, although they will need to work in demarcated zones on the grass, they will not feel isolated from other groups. A picnic lunch will be provided by the kitchens on one day and, on another, there will be pizzas or burgers and chips to enjoy as an end of term treat!

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0PQ
Tel: 0113 2502 811 enquiries@brontehouse.co.uk

I am Grovian.



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.
Registered Office: Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW15JR.
Charity No. 1142794. Company No. 7649422.



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Timing of the days will need to be organised outside of the timings of other year groups already in attendance and to ease parking and traffic flow on the site; I am proposing 10am – 3pm.

Please see below the allocated days for each year group:

Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th June – Year 4

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June – Year 2

Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th June – Year 3

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd July – Year 5

You will have gleaned some understanding of additional safety measures in school at this time from the previous information but please see below for additional controls:

- Children are in a group of up to 15 with consistent staffing and minimal contact with other children/staff;
- Drop-off/collection system which minimises contact between parents/pupils/staff
- Lunch is provided by the School and is a combination of hot and cold foods and is eaten only within bubbles.
- Bubbles are allocated a classroom base and toilet/handwashing facilities.
- Staggered playtime sessions to ensure that bubbles remain separate.
- **Where practicable, children will be 2m from each other, though we must acknowledge that this is difficult to police and cannot be guaranteed.**
- Frequent hand washing and good hygiene practice;
- Regular cleaning of the building throughout the day and every evening;
- Use of outdoor space as much as possible;
- Sharing of resources will be minimised.

Please can **all** parents click the link below and complete the short survey indicating your intention to allow your child to return to school on the above days. The deadline for completion is **Friday 19th June at 10am**, though we would appreciate a swift response in order to assist with planning and catering.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BHonsiteY2-5>

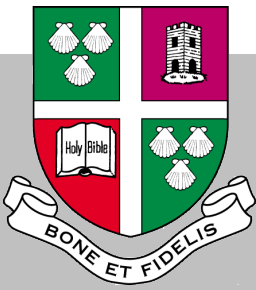
If you have more than one child in the School, please complete the survey for each of your children. Confirmation details will then follow, starting with Year 4, in preparation for their days in school on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th June. Please note that, unfortunately, due to insurance constraints, we are unable to allow children to attend if any member of the household is termed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' or 'shielded'.

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We very much hope that you will allow your child to attend what promises to be a fun-filled two days in school to celebrate friendships and finish the year on a high. Further information regarding end of year arrangements, classes for September and other details will follow in a subsequent letter next week.

With very best wishes,

S. Chatterton

Sarah Chatterton
Head, Brontë House

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