

BRONTË HOUSE SCHOOL

brontehouse.co.uk

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents,

After a full two-weeks in school, I am writing to provide some feedback on the beginning of term and the new routines and systems that we have in place.

The children certainly seem delighted to be back at school with friends and, though the classrooms may look a little different, they are once again bustling with life and learning.

We are very proud of how our youngest children in Ashdown Lodge have settled into, what for many, is a new environment. We hope that parents are finding the information on Tapestry about their child's development and experiences at school useful. Can Ashdown parents please be aware that staff are unable to come to the phone throughout the day as they are in bubbles, working with children. We will always get in touch if there is a problem or if your child is unsettled. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please email them in the first instance or call the main Brontë House Office and request a call back at a convenient time.

In Main School, the three concurrent timetables devised by Mrs Downs for Years 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 ensure that only one section of the school is on the move at any time, which decreases 'traffic' in corridors and common areas to allow Year Group bubbles to remain isolated from others.

The new outdoor sinks are proving extremely useful in assisting with frequent handwashing and the cleaning staff are working hard to ensure that touch points throughout the school are cleaned multiple times every day.

The picnic lunches in Years 3-6 have generally been met with enthusiasm from the children. We are investigating extra savoury snacks that could be added to ensure that our older children do not go home hungry.

Virtual assemblies will begin on Monday and House point certificate presentations will follow in due course. Good Work Awards have today been distributed in classes; please see Facebook this afternoon for photographs of this week's recipients.

Year 6 positions of responsibility will be announced in a virtual assembly on Monday 28th September. We realise that Year 6 children are eagerly anticipating this news!

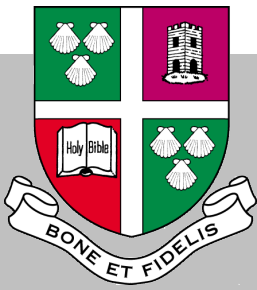
After a very busy first day, drop-off and collection arrangements are working well. Thank you to all parents who are returning to cars directly. If parents want to catch up with one another, can we respectfully request that this is done off-site?

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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Following Mr Cooper's return to university to complete his Law qualification, Mrs Bedford has now joined us in the Office as PA to the Senior Management Team and Office Manager. Mrs Richardson is now working mornings only. All enquiries should be sent to the email address: enquiries@brontehouse.co.uk
All absence may be reported at absence@brontehouse.co.uk

Following a review of our Risk Assessment and internal safety procedures, I must inform parents that I have made the decision to suspend setting arrangements in maths at the present time. As local and national COVID infection rates continue to rise significantly, it is imperative that we respond dynamically and make the changes necessary to keep our children and staff safe in school. In doing this, we remove the need for daily mixing of children in a closed, classroom environment; children will now remain in consistent groupings for all subjects. Whilst whole Year Groups will continue to constitute one bubble, it is hoped that, by taking this step, we are eliminating an unnecessary risk and removing an opportunity for any spread of the virus. Class teachers will now prepare mixed ability maths lessons with suitable differentiation for all abilities. Additional teacher support in Years 3 and 4 with Mr Moorhouse and Miss Bell will continue, though groupings will be altered to ensure consistency. Teaching Assistants will also continue to be used for both in-class support and small group withdrawal to ensure the progress of all learners. This is a temporary measure and will be reviewed regularly.

Unlike a number of local independent schools, who are choosing not to provide wrap around care at this time, we remain committed to opening fully and maintaining our Pre-school and After-school Care provision for those that need it. We appreciate that this is an essential resource for some families. Whilst children remain safe in bubbles at the beginning and end of every day, due to staffing limitations, children within the Year Group are mixing more freely at these times. Whilst breakfast numbers remain manageable, parents who are able to pick up children at the end of the day may wish to review their collection times, as we are seeing a steady increase in numbers; your support in this is appreciated. For those parents who require the care, we will continue to provide this service.

I do hope that you have felt the beginning of term has been a positive experience for the children. Mr Phenny is preparing a video to share with you via Facebook early next week about the work that has been going on in classrooms. Things may not be normal but, at Brontë, we are forging ahead!

With very best wishes,

S. Chatterton

Head, Brontë House

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