



Braeside School

130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5SD

Tel: 020 8504 1133

HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Chloe Moon B.A. (HONS), M.A., PGCE

E-mail: info@braesideschool.co.uk

Website: www.braesideschool.co.uk

3 March 2021

Dear Parents

Re: **March 2021 Headmistress's Letter**

We are delighted to be welcoming pupils back into school on Monday 8 March. This has been an incredibly challenging term and I know that the staff are very much looking forward to seeing the pupils and resuming face to face teaching. I thought it would be useful to outline the information to prepare for the return to school below.

Testing for staff and pupils

As you are already aware, staff who have been working with those pupils who are in Kindergarten and the Critical Worker group have been tested twice a week (on site). The testing for staff will still take place twice a week but will now be done at home. Staff have been asked to test on Sunday 7 March to ensure a safe return to work.

Senior pupils will now be tested on site three times in the first two weeks. The first test will take place on Monday 8 March from 8:45am. Year 11 will be the first cohort to be tested followed by Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7.

The testing will take place in the studio by a core team of staff who have received NHS training to oversee the Lateral Flow Tests. Testing will take place in PSHE, Music and PE to minimise disruption. However, this may on occasion overrun into other lessons. Please do read the communication that has been sent to you regarding consent for these tests and complete and return it online if you have not already done so.

After the three in-school tests, all senior pupils will be given home-testing kits to use twice each week.

Face masks

Staff and senior pupils wore face coverings before we broke up for Christmas. This will continue when we come back on 8 March at all times when moving around the site and also in classrooms. Disposable masks must only be disposed of outside of the school building. All visitors to the site will be required to wear a face masks. If you are dropping your child off at either the main entrance or the side entrances, please ensure that you are wearing a mask.

Timings of the day

We are continuing with the flexible drop-off in the mornings, which is now from 8:20am until 8:40am. Pick-up remains at 3:30pm for Juniors and 3:45pm for Seniors. Kindergarten to Year 2 will be dropped and collected from the Main Entrance. Please ensure that this procedure is swift and safe by driving as far into the drive as possible to allow other cars to park behind. Please exit the site as promptly as possible to allow a steady stream of cars to enter the site. Pick-up and drop-off for Senior pupils remains the Senior Gate and pupils in Year 3-6 will be dropped and collected from the Junior Gate. Please ensure that you stand in a socially distanced manner when collecting and dropping.

The dropping-off time for pupils will start at 8:25am after the Easter Break.

Attendance

The government made it very clear that all pupils are expected to return to school on 8 March. If your child is isolating (owing to a family member having COVID-19), is unwell with COVID-19 (or other symptoms) or has to quarantine from travel, these absences will be recorded as a COVID-19 related absence. Guidance states that all pupils of statutory school age should be attending school from Monday. Absences will be marked as unauthorised if parents simply choose for their child to remain at home, rather than to come to school.

Clubs and wraparound care provision

Breakfast Club and After School clubs are in operation. If you require Breakfast or After School Club, please let the office know as soon as possible to book your space.

All clubs are running normally after school and at lunchtime. These are also booked in the usual way through the office. The list of clubs is unchanged.

If your daughter is at After School Club, please ring the doorbell to alert the staff to bring her to you at the Main Entrance. If your daughter is attending a club after school (such as Street Dance), the teacher or club provider will bring them to you at the main entrance. Please wait at the bottom of the stairs (socially distanced) to allow for a safe handover.

Lunch and break times

Pupils will still be arranged in bubbles. Junior bubbles will be called to lunch starting with the Early Years Bubble at 12pm. The Key Stage 4 Bubble (Years 10 and 11) will be allowed access to the tuck shop at 10:50am. The Key Stage 3 Bubble (Years 7, 8 and 9) will be allowed to access the tuck shop at 11am. They must play in the gardens until their time.

The Key Stage 4 Bubble and Year 5 and 6 Bubble will play in the netball court during their break and lunchtimes (at different timings). The Key Stage 3 Bubble will have use of the garden and Junior Playground. The Year 2, 3 and 4 Bubble will have use of the Junior Playground. The Early Years Bubble will play in their usual play area.

Children will line up in a socially distanced manner. Juniors will queue in the corridor outside the main office and Year 2 classroom. Key Stage 3 will queue in the locker room area. Key Stage 4 will be called in year groups to queue in the locker area.

Signage

There will be additional signage on and around the school site. Please encourage your daughter to look at the signs for messages about the one-way system and queuing in a safe way.

Staffing

Our staff are very happy to be back in the classroom and working face to face with pupils for the remainder of the term. Mrs Revoir will not be returning to school this term as she has underlying health conditions that prevent her from being on the school site. Therefore, Mr Denyer (a qualified Humanities teacher) will be covering some History lessons whilst I will also continue to teach some. As a result, there are minimal tweaks to the timetable for a few classes and teachers. If your daughter is in Years 7, 8 or 9, please do check the Portal for an updated timetable for the term.

In addition, Mrs Razzak has been unwell from long-COVID9 and is unable to return to work before Easter. Therefore, Mrs Aquilina will continue to teach her lessons until the end of term, as she has been doing since January.

Uniform

Please refer to the uniform list that is on the website for the complete uniform for the term. All pupils should now return with full school uniform including regulation coats and black shoes (not trainers). Please be reminded that if your daughter is wearing boots to school because of adverse weather, she must wear school shoes on arrival.

Senior pupils should be wearing black opaque tights only now. This has been the case since the Autumn Term. I will consult you in the Summer Term if the weather changes drastically.

Pupils should continue to come to school in their PE kit if they have PE on that day. Please check the timetable on the Portal to identify the day that PE is on.

Pupils in the Juniors may wear their summer uniform early, if they have already outgrown the winter uniform this year. We appreciate that it has been difficult for parents to purchase new uniform during the current lockdown.

Socialising outside of school

I know that children are very excited to see each other 'in the flesh' when they come back to school. However, I must reiterate that the current restrictions do not allow play-dates or gatherings (such as parties) at the moment. Please refrain from organising social gatherings outside of school for your daughter with her friends. We have allowed time for safe socialising in school. It would be a shame if a bubble or class had to isolate at home after the long period of time away from school.

Mental health and wellbeing

Coming back to school after a period of time at home is going to be exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Procedures have altered and society has changed. We will be speaking to all pupils about these changes on arrival to school through form time and assemblies to reassure them about safety and well-being. If you have any questions or concerns about the return to school, please do contact a member of the Leadership Team before we return, so that we can best support your daughter. We will also be dedicating PSHE time to well-being and we will allow time for pupils to ask questions that may arise on the return to school.

We have written several times over the last few months with information about how to help with children's mental health and wellbeing at home. As you will be aware, there are some guides and resources available to download from our website.

For those children who might be experiencing anxiety or separation issues with less than a week to go until the full return, and Essex County Council has also provided some excellent resources that might help:

- The [Essex Wellbeing Service](#) has developed a navigator service to both signpost and provide a triage service where necessary to support the children's emotional wellbeing and mental health needs on the return to education. To access this service, call 0300 303 9988 from Monday 8 March.
- Recovery and Return to Educational Settings suite of resources has two downloadable webinars for families:
 - Part 1: [Looking after yourself](#) (28mins)
 - Part 2: [Looking after your family](#) (39mins)
- Essex Local Offer: [Coronavirus support wellbeing and mental health](#)

Public Health England has also published advice for parents on looking after the mental wellbeing of children during the pandemic, which is available to download [here](#).

Year 11 and GCSE exams

Thank you to those pupils and parents in Year 11 for bearing with us while we have been waiting for advice and guidance from OFQUAL. Year 11 have demonstrated resilience and maturity throughout this very uncertain time in their school career. There is now guidance and I have met with Mrs Osborn and Mr Hagger to plan the approach to assessment. Mrs Osborn will be sharing this information in a letter that will be sent tomorrow.

RSE Consultation

As you have already been made aware last year, we will be consulting parents on the new Relationships and Sex Education PSHE curriculum. This was supposed to be completed by September 2020 but the government postponed this policy owing to school closures. The consultation will be via Zoom during the week beginning 15 March. Details will follow next week.

Red Nose Day

Miss van Bergen has arranged a fundraising day for all pupils in the school to celebrate Red Nose Day (Comic Relief). A letter will be sent out on Friday about this day (19 March). We are marking the occasion with a non-school uniform day that must include an item of red coloured clothing in exchange for a £2 donation.

World Book Day

Although our Juniors and Seniors are not physically back at school yet, we will still be hosting activities during the week and on World Book Day (Thursday 4 March). Information has been circulated to you and your daughters through email, Seesaw and Show My Homework.

If your daughter is in Kindergarten or in the Critical Worker Group, she will be able to wear pyjamas to school on Thursday 4 March. Please ensure that these pyjamas are appropriate for school – warm, clean and easy for your daughter to remove if needed. Please also ensure that underwear is worn underneath the pyjamas for comfort.

FOBS

Lastly, I would like to remind you that the FOBS Family Quiz is taking place on Friday 12 March. FOBS have sent an email to all parents inviting you to take part in an online Kahoot quiz in exchange for £5. There will also be prizes awarded at the end of the evening. The letter contained information about how to pay (via transfer to FOBS). Only a handful of parents have signed up so far. Please contact FOBS to let them know you are taking part and that you have donated £5. It would be good to see many parents there.

Please do contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have before children return to school. We are very excited to be ending the term with some fun and safe activities to help pupils settle into routines, build on relationships with peers and staff and feel confident.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE CO-DIRECTORS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

Braeside School is the trading name of Braeside School Ltd; registered in England at 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA; company number 0783067

