



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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19 April 2021

Dear Parents

Re: April Head's Letter

I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable break with your families. The weather (although fresh) has been on our side for meeting up with friends and relatives outside. I hope that you have had a chance to catch up with your family.

Life is slowly beginning to return to some kind of normality which is more settling for children. Children will still need support in the adjustments to life with reinforcement of routine and the reasons for safety measures. I am confident that the Summer Term will be a return to 'normal' life slowly and safely.

Safety Measures Update

Mr Hagger wrote to all parents last week to set out the arrangements for the return to school. Please ensure that you have read that letter and follow the guidance it contains. It includes a reminder that senior pupils will continue wear face coverings when moving through the buildings, in communal areas and in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. Pupils who wear disposable masks must not dispose of these on site. They must take them home and dispose of them. If your daughter is wearing a fabric face covering, please make sure that this is cleaned every day.

All parents and visitors to the school must continue to wear face coverings at all times when on our site (both inside and outside) or if waiting outside the gates to pick up or drop off. Remember to maintain your distance at all times when waiting to pick up and do not congregate in large groups.

The letter also contains reminders about the lateral flow testing arrangements for members of staff and pupils in the seniors, as well as information about informing the school about any positive test results using the designated email address: covid@braesideschool.co.uk.

Timings of the day

School will be open from Tuesday 20 April 2021. As you will have read in Mr Hagger's letter, our doors will open at 8.25 am for those children not attending Breakfast Club and we will expect everybody to be in school by 8.40 am. Senior pupils should come straight to their Form Room (via their locker) using the senior gate. Pupils in Year 3-6 will use the junior gate and Kindergarten to Year 2 will be dropped at the front entrance as normal.

I am sorry to say that parents and carers will still not be able to enter the buildings for the time being unless for a specific purpose by invitation.

Swimming

I am delighted that swimming for Year 3-6 will be going ahead on Mondays in the Summer Term. I must remind you that children must be 'pool ready' when they arrive at Loughton Swimming Pool. This means that they must wear their swimsuit under the uniform and underwear and a towel must be packed in their swimming bag. Please ensure that your daughter has a regulation swimsuit and swimming hat (please see uniform list below).

Year 7 will not be swimming during the Summer Term owing to the time allocation we have been given by Loughton Pool.

Uniform

Junior pupils (except Year 6) should return on Tuesday 20 April with the summer uniform. The details are always displayed on the website. For ease of access, here is the link to the uniform list: <https://www.braesideschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BS-Uniform-2020-2021-4.pdf>.

The weather is very spring-like still, meaning that it can be cold in the morning and we may experience showers and rain throughout the day. It is advisable for pupils to continue to bring a coat to school as we endeavour to play outside when it is dry. In addition, Junior pupils will be wearing white socks now with the summer uniform. However, if the weather is still cold on our return, black tights will be allowed on cold days. Please also note that blazers and jumpers must be brought to school every day.

PE kits (for all pupils in the school) must be worn on days when your daughter has a PE lesson. Please make sure that PE kit is freshly washed for the next PE lesson of the week.

Suncream application

Hopefully, we will have some sunnier days ahead this term when pupils can enjoy the gardens at break and lunchtime. If you would like your daughter to wear suncream, please apply this before school. If you are a Junior parent and would like your child to re-apply suncream, please send your child in with the suncream in a sealed bag, labelled with her name. Children must apply their own suncream throughout the day.

Collection from Clubs

We are delighted to offer a range of clubs after school for your daughter to enjoy. Please can I remind you to pick your child up promptly from the Main Entrance. If your daughter is in tea-time club, please ring the bell and the staff will bring her to you. If you are collecting from an extra-curricular club, your daughter will be brought to the Main Entrance and the club leader will hand your child over. It is courtesy to let the school know if you are running late. We will then make arrangements to place your child in tea-time club (for a charge) where she will wait until you arrive. Please note that tea-time club must be booked in advance through the office.

Year 11 and GCSE Assessments

I must congratulate Year 11 on their mature, resilient and can-do attitude this year. They have had various messages from the government, JCQ and OFQUAL about their summer grades. I know it has been unsettling for them, but they have continued to follow the advice of their teachers and have prepared really well. We will be using a range of assessment methods during the Summer Term including the exam board materials to support this process.

Music Lessons

Additional music lessons, which had previously been delivered remotely, will now be face to face in school. Staff and pupils will follow appropriate safety measures. The music practice rooms have been given a makeover with extra sound-proofing. I know that pupils are delighted to be having their peripatetic music lessons together with their teacher.

Around the site

You may have noticed that the plant and flower beds at the front of the school have been adjusted. Mr Gregory (Maintenance team) has worked incredibly hard to clear the beds to make more space for parking, allow a wider space for parents dropping off in the morning and adding more plants and flowers. A large wooden, waterproof bag rack has been assembled at the site of the Art and Science block for junior pupils to store their swimming and PE bags safely during the day. We will be encouraging pupils to make use of this safe storage system this term.

Summer celebrations

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that we will have a Prize Giving in a large gathering this term. The Senior Leadership Team, teaching and support staff and pupils are thinking about how we can still to celebrate the school year in a meaningful and special way. We will share this with parents before half term, once we have more information about what is possible. We are determined to recognise and celebrate the effort that our pupils go to and we will still do this, albeit in a different way that ensures comfort and safety.

PSHE and Sex and Relationships Education

Parents are already aware that the Government has published new statutory guidance for all schools, including independent schools, for the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education.

Parents have had the opportunity to join the consultation and hear more about how we are planning to meet these requirements in school. The lessons take place in PSHE, and will be on the curriculum this term.

We have updated the PSHE and Sex and Relationships policies to reflect the new requirements. These are now available for all parents to read on the school website, in the policies tab, or by following this link: <https://www.braesideschool.co.uk/parents-pupils/school-policies/>. If you prefer a paper copy, contact the school office and they will provide one for you to collect.

Support for Mental Health – returning to school

Returning to school after a long break can be daunting for some children, especially after a period of school closure in the Spring Term. Life and society is constantly changing in the wake of the virus. This can feel overwhelming for some children. I have included some breathing exercises that you may find useful to practise on the return to school. It also includes some mindful colouring exercises.

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/mindfulness-breathing-activity-pack/>

Forthcoming Events

Weds 21 April	Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Zoom Meeting
Tues 27 April	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Sat-Sun 1-2 May	Duke of Edinburgh Practise Weekend
Tues 4 May	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Sat-Sun 15-16 May	Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Weekend
Tues 25 May	Year 8 HPV2 Vaccinations
Thurs-Fri 24-25 June	Years 5 and 6 Residential Visit to Lambourne End

If you have any questions about any of the above information, please do get in touch with the office staff or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We are looking forward to a term that feels more settled and normal!

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
Headmistress



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