



7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and safe. I have been waiting to contact you about the possible opening of schools. It has been well reported that we will all be updated by the government later this week regarding lockdown measures that are currently in place. It is likely that this will include the suggestion that schools open.

Grange Park has remained open throughout the lockdown period and where possible has provided childcare for some key worker families who have required assistance. The announcement is likely to provide us with the freedom to increase numbers of children permitted on site.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, parents and carers have been united in supporting us in the most challenging and uncertain times, and I am truly grateful for your support. I like you await the update and promise that I will contact you with the schools' position in the early part of next week. Whilst we predict the governments suggestion will be to open for Year 6 first, followed by year 10 and 12, I have to consider the individual challenges our young people and families face.

In 2010 our building at Wrotham was purpose built for a maximum capacity of 48 with a maximum class size of 8. We currently have 98 pupils in classes of 12 at Wrotham which greatly exceeds capacity and makes social distancing impossible. We also await an update from our partners at Mid Kent and Hadlow colleges as to their planned provision for the students who attend college.

To assist us in our planning, I will be asking you about your expectations and how you would like to proceed with your own child. I will be asking whether you would *intend on sending your child back to school in term 6* if this were an option. There is no judgement on our part but this will allow us to work with the families where there is a need to return to school.

Covid 19 has had an impact on all our lives and I have to remain mindful that the virus has not gone away and therefore my primary concern is to keep the pupils and staff as safe as possible. Today I met with the head teachers of the other C&I schools within our co-operative including Broomhill Bank, Laleham Gap and the



new school, Snowfields. This afternoon our shared views, plans and concerns will be shared with the local authority with whom we are working closely with at this difficult time. Some of the suggested measures such as staggered days and two week timetables would not work in our settings.

At the beginning of the lockdown, I made a commitment that our leavers in Years 6, 11 and Year 14 would not be disadvantaged and I will ensure that our Year 11 and 13 pupils are not forgotten. In most schools Year 11 and 13 pupils would not attend school in Term 6. I know for many social distancing in taxi's is a significant concern and one which I don't think will be easily resolved.

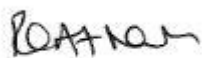
We will discuss individual needs with you to ensure that the children are as safe as possible. Children who have a behaviour support plan will need a review to ensure that they can adhere to social distancing and instructions that will keep them and their peers safe. We will not want to physically intervene with any pupil as this increases risks to all those involved. Please do not worry we will work with you to find a solution that works.

Tomorrow marks VE Day which we had planned to celebrate with you today. We have updated the website with some VE day resources which you might find useful. I will be looking forward to cake and tea with my family tomorrow, I need no excuse for cake.

I look forward to providing you with more information next week.

Take care and keep safe

Kind regards



Renukah Atwell  
Headteacher