

# Brabourne Church of England Primary School

Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5LQ \* Tel/Fax 01303 813276 \* email office@brabourne.kent.sch.uk

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Headteacher: Mr Andrew Stapley

Dear Parents

## Update

Following my last letter, the school will be open on Monday 8.40-3.15 until the Easter holidays, to provide a 'skeleton service' for children of parents **who are key workers only**.

At midnight, the government published a list of those parent / carers who are entitled to send their child to school. The link below provides specific details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

It is critical to note, however, that this provision should only be taken up if there are no other alternatives. **In the best interests of your child and my colleagues, we wish to minimise any risks and the number of pupils attending should, therefore, only be in circumstances where it is essential.**

## Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

We are especially mindful of families who are **free school meals or Pupil Premium**. If you are experiencing any concerns or financial difficulties, please contact me at [headteacher@brabourne.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@brabourne.kent.sch.uk) and the school will do everything we can to support you.

## Concluding points

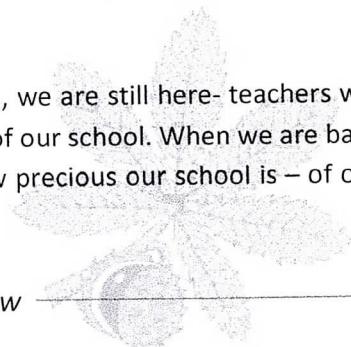
Firstly, thank you parents and relatives, for your incredibly supportive approach to our staff that you have taken during these exceptionally challenging times. Your kind words have helped keep us going through the week. I wish to thank my superb colleagues, who have been rushed off their feet all week, whilst worrying about their own families and loved ones. I hope that they can get a rest this weekend and pause to take stock. We are also incredibly grateful to all of these key workers in our school families, such as NHS staff, who are looking after us all. Thank you finally to all the parents who have so kindly offered the school help, through use of their businesses or just for an extra pair of hands. We are incredibly grateful.

This year the school celebrates 170 years since the first children were enrolled in 1850. It has seen much in its time and this will be yet another chapter in its history. But In years to come we will look back on this event and think about how we supported each other and what role we played. During World War 2, the school housed evacuees from the city, turning its cellar (under Jupiter Class) into an air raid shelter. Teaching children about evacuees always seems quite abstract but we are now in a similar situation where we will pull together as a school community, just in a different way, through technology.

Even though the gates may be closing for a while to the majority of children, we are still here- teachers will find new ways of communicating to ensure that we can maintain the bonds of our school. When we are back "to normal" again, we will benefit from an even greater appreciation of how precious our school is – of our

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*Sow the seeds... Nurture... Watch them grow*



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wonderful pupils, teachers, TAs, support staff, families and wider community.

In the meantime, remind the children of our values of hope and courage (and also that Mr Stapley still expects them to work hard!)

Stay safe, look after each other and I will be in touch again very soon.

Kind regards



Andrew Stapley  
Headteacher

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