



Queenborough School & Nursery

Edward Road, Queenborough, Kent ME11 5DF
Tel: 01795 662574 Email: office@queenborough.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Barbara Conroy BA Ed (Hons) NPQH

July 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Last week the Government released further guidance for schools to consider when planning for September. We therefore feel that we are now able to share with you our current thinking for the beginning of the new academic year.

Term 1 will begin for our children on **Monday 7th September**. Our aim is for **all children in Reception to Year 4 to return to their existing teachers and classrooms for one term**. After such a long time away from school, we hope that this will be quite reassuring for both children and parents/ carers. The children will be able to settle back into school life and have the opportunity to round off the previous year with their current teacher. It will also enable teachers to spend a term ascertaining where the children are with their learning and which areas of learning need to be prioritised.

From Term 2, the children will move to their new teachers and classes as they ordinarily would in Term 1. We will not be finalising plans for which class each teacher will receive until Term 1, once we assess the needs of the children upon their return to school. Once this has been decided, we will communicate this with parents in Term 1, as we ordinarily would in Term 6. Thank you, in advance, for your patience as this is finalised.

It is important to distinguish that the children are not being held back by a term or repeating the year. They will officially still be registered in the year group above that in which they are now, but their class name, teacher and classroom will remain the same for one term.

For the current Year 5 children, we have made the decision that it is most beneficial for them to return to us as Year 6 children. We have a responsibility to ensure that these children are ready for secondary school, in addition to the challenges of Year 6, such as the SATs tests in Term 5. However, Year 5 teachers will be available during the first term and will be working alongside the Year 6 team as the children settle back into school. We have every confidence that our new Year 6 children will rise to this challenge and set a brilliant example to the rest of the school.

If your child is in Jade Class, please note that Mrs Simpson will not be returning to work as she is now on maternity leave. Jade Class will be taught by Mrs Limb; however, their Teaching Assistant will continue to be Miss Cork.

In order to ensure that we limit the number of people arriving at school at different times, we will continue to stagger drop-off and pick-up times. We are currently working on a plan to allocate each year group a start and end time and we will endeavour to ensure that siblings can start and finish school at the same time, for the convenience of parents. Thank you for your patience as we finalise this plan.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you our term dates for next academic year:

Term 1: 37 days (33 teaching days and 4 Staff Development Days)

Thursday 3rd September-Friday 23rd October

Children start on **Monday 7th September**

Children finish on **Wednesday 21st October**

Staff Development Days (Children not in school):

Thursday 3rd September

Friday 4th September

Thursday 22nd October

Friday 23rd October

Term 2: 35 teaching days

Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th December

Term 3: 30 teaching days

Monday 4th January - Friday 12th February

Term 4: 29 teaching days

Monday 22nd February - Thursday 1st April

Term 5: 29 teaching days

Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May

Term 6: 35 days (34 teaching days and 1 SDD)

Monday 7th June - Friday 23rd July

Children start on **Tuesday 8th June**

Staff Development Day (Children not in school):

Monday 7th June

Undoubtedly, there will be further guidance issued in coming weeks and we have learnt, throughout this period, that our first plan is rarely our final plan. However, we will remain in contact with you until the end of term and throughout the Summer break to ensure that parents/ carers have all the information they require for the start of term.

Yours sincerely,

B. Conroy

Mrs B Conroy

Headteacher