



CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Home of Bright Sparks

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Thursday, 14 May 2020

June 1st Increasing School Capacity

Dear Parent,

I wrote to you on Monday of this week (and that seems a very long time ago!) and I thought I should provide an update given the whirlwind of news reports and opinion this has generated in recent days. School leaders, staff and governors have worked throughout this week on a very wide range of factors and risks that need to be considered in response to drive to expand school capacity for Year 6 children on June 1st. For each of the factors and risks, including the many shared by parents completing the online form, we have worked to determine **safe, satisfactory** and **sustainable** control measures. We have also tested these three aspects for children, staff and the families they live with, against all aspects and models being considered. We have liaised with local schools and a wide range of junior schools across England. We have made good progress on this but further work is needed to ensure any plan will hold the faith of staff, parents and children.

This afternoon, all schools in Sussex have received a request from the Local Authority to hold back on confirming any specific information to parents on reopening to ensure there can be a co-ordinated, consistent plan and approach across different schools. In addition, Government guidance is continuing to evolve and we need to ensure school plans comply with that guidance. I support this approach. I believe, given many families have children at different schools, that a small delay, perhaps until next Tuesday, would prevent any mixed messages or confusion about arrangements between different schools.

For the moment it will continue to be helpful to receive your responses to the expected school expansion on the online form. This may be found at:

HOME > PARENTS > COVID 19 - CORONA VIRUS UPDATES > EXPANDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - SUMMER 2020

<https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Expanding+School+Attendance+%2D+Summer+2020&pid=947>

Please complete the online form on or before **Friday 15th May 4:00p.m.**

We are now building responses to the questions that have been raised and will publish a 'frequently asked questions' document that, we hope, will be of use to all families as we know many families will have very similar queries, questions and concerns. We will publish this as a working document on the same page, probably from Monday.

We would expect to open bookings for the 1st June onwards from Wednesday 20th May, although this may be delayed if Government or West Sussex Local Authority advice changes markedly in the meantime. As ever we continue to 'hope for the best and plan for the worst'. 😊

Yours sincerely,