Dear Families,

Welcome to our classroom community. Although this school year is far from typical or ideal, I hope to be a positive presence in your child’s life and look forward to contributing to their development as we begin this school year virtually. This is my third year as an ECE teacher at Brent.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Kelly Drew as my teaching partner this school year. Ms. Drew joins Brent Elementary as an experienced educator. She has worked with preschool aged children at Bright Horizons and is excited to join the Brent community. You will have the opportunity to meet both of us at your child’s home visit.

Our early childhood team looks forward to sharing a year of joyful learning experiences, inspiring projects, and strong friendships this school year. Below you will find information about how we will kick things off in week one.

**Virtual Home Visits Sign-up:** During week one (8/31-9/4), all Brent families and teachers will participate in virtual home visits. Relationship building is the central focus of these conversations as we begin this school year online, and relationships will serve as the foundation for a year-long collaboration between ECE teachers and families. We will share more about these home visits in an email sent to families on Friday. Please sign-up for a virtual home visit [here](#).

**Weekly Family Check-In Sign-Up:** As a part of distance learning, each family will have a weekly check-in time with their teachers. **During the home visit conversation, we will select a check-in time to meet with your child and family each week.** Please note, this family check-in time will begin in week two and remain consistent over the course of term one.

**Asynchronous Open House:** On Friday, we will have a virtual open house. Your family will be able to view a PowerPoint presentation that will introduce students to their ECE classroom. Links to the virtual Open House will be shared via email on Friday.

**Week One Highlights**

**Week One:** This first week follows a special schedule as our students acclimate to the school year and home visits take place.
Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday
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Optional student participation days. We will operate on a limited schedule where all students are invited to participate in whole group morning meetings each day. | First full day of the school year! We will begin following the typical ECE schedule. | | Typical ECE schedule continues.

Please open the attached week one schedule and note if your child is in A group or B group. The first full day of instruction is Thursday, September 3 for all students.

Student A & B Groups and the ECE Schedule: As you open the first week schedule, it is important to note if your child is assigned to A group or B group. These half groups will be the same grouping of students consistent across morning meetings, story times, and small groups for the first few weeks of the school year. You will notice activity blocks scheduled in 30-minute increments. Please understand that we anticipate much shorter meetings at the beginning of the school year as children acclimate to online learning and build stamina for attending virtual meetings.

Clubs: On Thursday and Friday of week one, we invite all families to join us for club previews to learn more about this part of the ECE schedule at Brent. Your child will be invited to choose a club to join in the coming days. These clubs will begin in week two.

PE: PE is returning to ECE! We will have PE starting in week one on Friday. Look for more information about ECE specials in the days to come.

Information about getting your child logged on for all components of the schedule will come in Friday’s email.

Sincerely,

Jenny Akagi
ECE Lead Teacher
Brent Elementary