Hello new and returning families!

We are so excited to have each of you in our class this year and even though this is not the way we ever imagined we’d start school we are still approaching it with the same enthusiasm and openness we would any other year! We wanted to start with some brief introductions so that new families will know who will be working with their child this year!

**Emma Bailey:** Hello I am Emma Bailey I am the lead teacher in your child’s class this year! I am now beginning my fourth year at Brent and fifth year as a teacher! I attended undergrad at Catholic University here in DC and graduated in 2015. After graduation I travelled for a bit and then worked on Long Island for a year, and then moved back to DC. I am currently halfway through my graduate program at Trinity Washington University for my Master’s in Special Education. I have a dog named Pepper who has quickly become a class favorite (I’m sure she will be making some appearances in our live lessons). I am originally from Long Island, NY but have been living here in DC on the Hill since I began working at Brent. I look forward to getting to know all of you over the course of this year and can’t wait to all meet soon!

**Eleanor Marindin:** Welcome! I hope you had a great summer. My name is Eleanor Marindin and this fall I will be starting my 16th year as a paraprofessional at Brent. Early in my time at Brent, I worked with another teacher on the very first pre-k 3 program. I have also previously worked with kindergarteners, as well as with a wide range of ages of children in the before and aftercare programs some years. My hobbies include photography, gardening, arts & crafts, and long walks with my dog Jasper.

There is a lot of important information in this email so we ask that you please read it thoroughly and look for any action items you may need to take! Our early childhood team looks forward to sharing a year of joyful learning experiences, inspiring projects, and strong friendships with your child and family. Below you will find information about how we will kick things off with beginning of year events and week one instruction.

**Virtual Home Visits Sign-up:** During week 1 (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 be providing a little bit more information about home visits in an email you will receive on Friday. For now we ask that you sign up for a home visit and Family check in (see below) time here:  [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iN7XPKJxm5RLDTPhlsHMyro8_D7aD5NvKn0P1qk0SY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iN7XPKJxm5RLDTPhlsHMyro8_D7aD5NvKn0P1qk0SY/edit?usp=sharing)

**Family Check-In Sign-Up:** As a part of distance learning and to highlight the importance of relationship building and maintenance, each family will have a weekly check-in time with their teachers. These check ins may be used to discuss projects the class is working on, to supplement class learning with 1-1 instruction time, or may just be a time for your child to talk with their teachers. You may sign-up for your child’s weekly check-in time here.  [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iN7XPKJxm5RLDTPhlsHMyro8_D7aD5NvKn0P1qk0SY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iN7XPKJxm5RLDTPhlsHMyro8_D7aD5NvKn0P1qk0SY/edit?usp=sharing) Please note, this family check-in time will begin in week two and remain consistent over the course of term one.

**Week One Highlights**

**Week One:** This 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.

**The first full day of class is Thursday, September 3 for all ECE students.**

**Student A & B Groups and the ECE Schedule:** As you open the Term1 Cycle 1 schedule, it is important to note if your child is assigned to A group or B group (found on the bottom of the document). 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. These groups will remain the same for the first 4 weeks of school, then we will switch the groups for the next cycle. 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 1, we invite all families to join us for club previews to learn more about this part of the ECE schedule at Brent. Our first two clubs are Nature Club and Building Club. Your child will be invited to choose a club, then starting in week 2 they will attend this club twice a week.

**PE:** PE is returning to ECE! We will have PE starting in Week 1 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.

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

**To Do’s:**
- Sign up for Virtual Home Visit and Weekly Family Check in’s (Link above)
- Check which group your child is in (On bottom of schedules)
- Print Week one and Term 1/ Cycle one schedules and mark your child’s log on times

We understand that this is a lot. So, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us and let us know!
We look forward to meeting you all next week and beginning an awesome year together!

Best,
Emma Bailey & Eleanor Marindin