



Collingwood Primary School

week beginning Monday 11th May 2020

Dear Collingwood Family member,

It is the end of another very, very busy week for me! Collingwood continues to be open for a very small number of critical worker children. Key staff continue to be on site every day.

What is new this week:

Following last Sunday's announcement by the Prime Minister on the Government's plans for a "Phased", re-opening of schools, not before 1st June, we have been busily reading all of the guidance and preparing. The reasons for me not being able to give you the exact arrangements are varied but include the following:

- We are still trying to work out how to implement the ever changing guidance, some of which was issued as late as Tuesday evening and last night!
- Purchasing floor tape, sanitiser, disposable gloves, cleaning products etc has been as difficult as finding toilet rolls was when this all began.
- Teaching unions are meeting with the government today to discuss the scientific evidence behind the re-opening of schools.
- It is taking us a great deal of time to rearrange furniture, remove soft furnishings and movable objects and set up safety and cleaning measures in order to check exactly what we will be able to offer in our cramped building from 1st June.

After much consideration, in consultation with my head teacher colleagues in Woodham and on the understanding that any plan we announce is subject to change, I can now explain what we *hope* to be able to do during the first week. We will do everything within our power to eliminate risk and follow the two metre social distancing rule but I cannot assure you that this important safety measure is either practical or feasible in a school setting, particularly with younger pupils and those with S.E.N.

- School for those key worker children who have attended school throughout, will remain as it is now.
- Children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 will be split into 4 groups of 7-9 pupils. We will offer siblings the same days.
- Groups 1 and 2 can attend school on Monday and Tuesday as long as staffing allows and they are not displaying symptoms. Groups 3 and 4 can attend on Thursday and Friday as long as staffing allows and they are not displaying symptoms.
- On Wednesday, school will be shut to all but Key worker children as the rest of the building will be thoroughly cleaned for the change of groups to come in on Thursday. We will do the same on Friday/Saturday for the change of groups to come in on Monday.
- Children will not necessarily be in their own classroom and may not be with friends and may not be taught by their own teacher. They may not be with children of the same age. This is impossible when some staff are not able to come on site and children need to be socially distanced.
- Each child will be sat at their own desk with their own set of equipment/pencils etc and desks will be spaced 2m apart probably 7-9 pupils in each room, if all eligible pupils come into school.
- There will be an adult in each room but this may not always be a teacher...we simply do not have that many! The work completed will have been set by a teacher.
- There will be no gatherings of more than 9 pupils ie no playtimes, no assembly, lunch will be eaten at desks.

- Instead of breaktimes and PE, Children will take part in sessions of adult led, physical activity outside which does not involve sharing equipment or touching each other. They will not be able to use the climbing equipment.
- To avoid adults gathering, we will need to stagger drop off and pick up times and will ask you to use a specific gate and entrance.
- School meals will be available but choice may be limited. Children may bring a packed lunch in disposable bags and containers that can be thrown away, in school, to avoid unnecessary transfer of belongings to and from school.
- Children should bring as little into school as possible. No book bags, no coat if fine, no ties. Trainers can be worn so that there is no need to bring PE bags into school.
- Uniform should be white and navy but can consist of summer or winter uniform. Ideally we would like children to wear a clean set of clothes each day but understand if this is difficult.
- The only things children should bring into school are themselves, packed lunch if required, their named drink bottle (filled and cleaned each day at home) and a jumper/coat only if needed. All of their belongings will be stored on a chair, at their individual desk next to where they sit so that movement around the room is very limited.
- Any child or adult who is "**clinically extremely vulnerable**" due to pre-existing medical conditions should not attend school.
- Any child or adult who is at higher risk and is vulnerable, parents should follow medical advice.
- Adults (including staff) who are in receipt of a government letter are not to attend school.
- Any child or adult displaying symptoms will be sent home.

I want to make it very clear that this is not what we consider to be good teaching! In fact it goes against everything we believe about making children independent, curious learners who enjoy school but it is the best we can offer in line with the guidance we must follow.

The guidance makes it clear that it is not compulsory for parents to send their children to school at this time and there will be no penalties if you choose to keep your child(ren) at home.

All schools will continue to provide a home learning offer to all pupils not accessing support on site and will also keep in regular touch with the families of all pupils, whether or not they are attending school.

Curriculum provision and Activities for pupils:

Pupils have been sharing lots of work with teachers using their Google Accounts which has been great!

When your child uploads work to be shared with teachers, please make sure that you use only one SINGLE Google Docs document each week. Please name this document with a number (for the week) and your child's class and your child's first name. For example if you had a child named Wonda in year 1 you would name next week's Google Docs document: 2-1H-Wonda. Your teacher is only asking for ONE piece of work to be shared each week and will provide pink and green written feedback on this.

As always, please check regularly with your child that they know who and what they should/should not be communicating with on the internet. The link to the 2 Johns website is

<https://www.esafetytraining.org/>

ThinkUKnow have created a page to support parents which includes home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities to support children's understanding of online safety at a time. There information for primary and secondary age groups. The resources can be found here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>

Be SMART: Online Safety Video Lessons for 6 - 9 year olds. Childnet have released six easy-to-follow videos parents and children to work through together. The 10 - 15 minute videos offer simple, clear online safety and fun activities, games and discussion with follow-up activities. The videos can be found here:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons>

Communication between home and school:

Contact us on admin@collingwood.essex.sch.uk or 01245 322258. As always, there is local information and support on our website www.collingwoodschool.net (click on the yellow writing top right on the home screen then use the tabs across the top.) Follow us on twitter @Collingwoodprim as I often send out messages which are not necessarily school related but could be helpful in directing you to useful information.

Staff have been delighted to speak to so many of you on the telephone and by email this week. We apologise for "harassing" some of you but **if you do not reply, we will keep chasing you, which includes me turning up on your doorstep in some cases which I am sure nobody wants, as we need to know that you are ok!** Just a brief response is fine. In an emergency you should still telephone school on 01245 322258 (during school hours) or phone 999.

Support:

If you are struggling at home as a family, this resource hub for parents might help <https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/covid-19-pandemic-resource-hub/>

If you are struggling with home learning, need help with a topic or subject, creating a routine, dealing with behaviour or managing the learning of several children this national parent helpline which is staffed by Ofsted inspectors and teachers *StarLine is open six days a week and covers all areas of the curriculum across all phases of education. The number to call is 0330 313 9162 (calls charged at local rate).*

Government information on keeping children safe online at home

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Compass 24/7 Domestic Abuse helpline - 0330 333 7 444 providing information, advice and guidance to anyone who has concerns about family, friends or themselves who may be victims of Domestic Abuse

Educational Psychology Service Parent Helpline (Essex) 01245 433293 Mondays and Wednesday 1pm - 5pm (during term time)

Below is a list of organisations gathered from asking Collingwood Parents if they have any information they would like us to share with other families. Obviously, we have not investigated and are not recommending any of these but are passing them on to you in case they are of interest. If you have any other ideas, please email them directly to class teachers. Thank you

A little unusual, but as a local mortgage broker, (and a Collingwood parent), we are fully aware that this is a very stressful time financially for all Collingwood families. Mortgage payment holidays have been massively popular over the past few weeks. With this in mind, we are able to offer Free mortgage advice to any Collingwood family that needs it for the next month. Lots of families are not sure what help is available or how to access it with their mortgage lender. **Lee Stone, Mortgage Broker, 07800 555 381, email:** lee@stonemortgagesolutions.co.uk, www.stonemortgagesolutions.co.uk

I can recommend an online programme for people who are suffering from stress, anxiety and depression and due to Covid, this is being provided for free for people living in Mid Essex on <https://me.silvercloudhealth.com/signup> People just need to register with an email address to get access. This is widely used within the NHS

A Facebook page called 'Essex Coronavirus Action' and this has been quite useful in providing updates and links to other services. It also keeps you updated with what local people are doing during this time in an attempt to keep people's spirits up!

I found these worksheets regarding first aid

<https://www.daisyfirstaid.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/1-What-is-an-emergency1.pdf>

Keep safe, keep smiling and hopefully, we will see you soon.

Mrs Buckland-Garnett