



Collingwood Primary School

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Dear Collingwood Family member,

I would not normally send you two newsletters in one week but I am very aware that there are lots of questions you would like to know the answers to so I have decided to send this out today with a further, hopefully shorter, update on Friday. Collingwood continues to be open for a very small number of critical worker children who must be wondering what on earth is going on with all the furniture moving going on this week in preparation for re-opening!

Thank you for your support and understanding following last week's newsletter outlining our plans for reopening. I am making this information available to **all** parents, not just those with children in EYFS and Years 1 and 6 so that you are all aware how we are planning to work if schools re-open on 1st June. Here are my answers to some of the FAQ's from parents:

Will this be the plan every week?

Hopefully, yes, to start with, but until we work out what the difficulties are, once children are on site, we cannot commit to more. We would, of course, ultimately like to see all children in school at all times but are limited by our risk assessment using the current government guidelines. If staff become unwell, or a new case is diagnosed, our plans could change at very short notice.

Will children be able to swap days depending on parent's working patterns?

No, not at the moment. This plan limits pupils to mixing with the same group of 7-9 pupils at all times. The groups will stay the same regardless of how many children turn up. Each group or "bubble" will only be able to mix with each other. Changing days would increase the number of pupils having contact which would mean increased chance of the virus being spread.

Will school ensure that my child is socially distanced?

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. Imagine asking eight 4-5 year olds to sit at a desk, on their own all day. The government guidance acknowledges it might not be possible to keep younger children two metres apart, but says schools can mitigate the risk with "frequent hand cleaning", "regular cleaning" of classes and "minimising contact and mixing". Our EYFS pupils will be given markings on the floor to sit on/stay within and use of shared objects eg toys will be limited as much as we are able. Please refer to the Government guidance for parents sent home last week for the scientific thinking behind younger pupils being in school first.

Why only Key worker's children on Wednesdays?

On Wednesday, school will be shut to all but Key worker children as the rest of the building will be thoroughly cleaned for the two new "bubbles" in each year group, to come in on Thursday. We will do the same on Friday/Saturday for the change of "bubbles" in each year group, to come in on Monday.

Can my child be with their friend?

This will be largely down to luck I am afraid. Each year group has been split into 4 groups/ "bubbles", alphabetically as this is the only way to allocate groups fairly; They may or may not be with their friends but there will be little opportunity to have close contact, other than for EYFS children, and it actually may be even more difficult to implement social distancing if friends are in the same group. The only changes we have made is to ensure that siblings attend on the same days so that parents can limit the times they need to visit school.

Will my child be taught with their age group?

This is our intention, apart from Key worker children who have been kept as a group throughout lockdown, who will remain together in their own "bubble". This is subject to change if staffing becomes a challenge due to illness.

What time will the school day start and end? Where should I drop off/collect?

Adults are deemed to be more at risk than children. To avoid parents gathering, we will need to stagger drop off and pick up times and ask you to use a specific gate and entrance. Please do not arrive early as the gate will be locked. Whilst waiting, please ensure that you socially distance. Year 6 will need to enter and leave via the car park gate at the back of the school at either 8:50am (and be collected at 3:00pm) or 9:10am (and be collected at 3:20pm). Year 1 will need to enter and leave via the Collingwood Road gate, into the playground, by the pavilion, (not the main gate) at the same times. E.Y.F.S. will need to enter and leave via the main entrance gate, turn left and enter via the EYFS classroom door at the same times. **You will be told your arrival and collection times individually, before the end of this week.**

Other things you need to know:

- Each child, other than those in EYFS, will be sat at their own desk with their own set of school equipment/pencils etc Desks will be spaced 2m apart, or as far as we can in our cramped classrooms, with up to 9 pupils in each room.
- 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 lunchtime play and PE, children will take part, in their group, in more than one session of adult led, physical activity outside, throughout the day, which does not involve sharing equipment or touching each other. They will not be able to use the climbing equipment.
- 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/cardigan if fine, no ties, no toys, no bags or lunchboxes etc. 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 (no ties). Ideally we would like children to wear a clean set of clothes each day to avoid transfer into school 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 who is "**clinically extremely vulnerable**" due to pre-existing medical conditions should not attend school. Adults (including staff) who are in receipt of a government letter are not to attend school, even to drop off or collect.
- For any child or adult who is at higher risk and is vulnerable, parents should seek and follow medical advice.
- **Any child, parent or member of staff displaying symptoms, which now include loss of smell or taste, should not come to school. This includes anyone living with another person showing symptoms. Anyone can now be tested.** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Any child or adult displaying symptoms will be sent home. If a child is unwell or showing symptoms, they will be isolated, away from other children and the adult treating them will put on a face mask and disposable gloves. Parents will be called to collect them immediately.
- Children in school will be encouraged to talk about and reflect on their experiences during lockdown.
- Regular handwashing will be encouraged throughout the day. Children will be reminded to "catch it, bin it, kill it."
- 7 'til 7 Club will not be opening in the near future as we would not be able to keep children in their separate "bubbles".
- Walk or cycle to school rather than driving.

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.

Curriculum provision and Activities for pupils who are learning at home:

Teachers who are not on site, will continue to provide home learning activities to all pupils not accessing support on site and will also keep in regular contact with the families of all pupils, whether or not they are attending school.

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. <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 for parents and children to work through together. The 10 - 15 minute videos offer simple, clear online safety advice using 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.

You are still welcome to contact class teachers by email but please be aware that we have increased our staffing onsite and therefore there may be a delay in responding to you or your query may be passed onto another member of staff to respond. 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).*

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)

Thank you again for all of your positive comments and support for the work we are carrying out, it is very much appreciated. Mrs A Buckland-Garnett.

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