



Collingwood Primary School

Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Collingwood Family member,

Collingwood's number of worker Critical Worker pupils increased slightly this week although figures for pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 have not changed significantly. This week we had "bubbles" of 5-15 children in each room.

On Tuesday, I received the Government's flexibility on wider opening guidance which advises that school leaders have the ability to invite back additional children if, having invited back the pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6, they are able and feel ready to do so within the existing guidance.

We are delighted to be one of only 42% of Essex Primary schools who are able to offer some provision for all three eligible year groups. A press release from the Local Authority on provision across the county can be found here: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-county-council-thanks-education-and-childcare-staff-in-responreturnsse-to>

It has always been our hope to get pupils from other year groups into school but unless social distancing is reduced and the total number allowed in each bubble increases beyond 15 and adults are able to work with more than one bubble, we are unable to. ie If current bubbles are small enough to merge without going over 15, I will probably only be able to release **one** teacher which means that I would be able to invite 15 new children but only 8-9 fit into a class so realistically, I can only invite 8-9. Therefore, to invite one class would take 4 days for each bubble of 8-9 to attend school for 1 day. The issue then is that each bubble needs a different member of staff so I would need 4 staff but have only 1. So again, I would realistically only be able to invite back 8-9 pupils.

There has been a lot in the media this week about unions and teachers being a barrier to the reopening of schools and I wanted to make my personal view very clear to you that this is certainly not the case at Collingwood:

- Our teachers were adamant that they wanted to be the ones to provide a rich and varied diet of home learning experiences which were most suitable for our pupils and not just subscribe to the first online programme we could pay for.
- Not one of our staff have "had 12 weeks off" often working long hours, putting Collingwood's needs before that of their own families.
- Every member of staff who is able to return to work on site has done so. The very few who could not, have taken on the work of those that have.
- Our staff have voluntarily changed their days and hours and put their own fears aside in order to do what is best for the pupils who are in school.

- Many staff have worked far beyond their paid working hours and outside of their job descriptions, without being asked to.

This week, we have contacted the parents of all pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 to ask if they intend to take up their current offer so that we can see if any "spare" places can be offered to pupils in other year groups. I will keep you informed about this.

What's new this week:

We are glad that you liked our video clips which were tweeted last Friday when friendly aliens landed on the school playground and popped into EYFS and ate their cakes, leaving only crumbs behind! We are all keeping a lookout in case they return and Mr Caton is studying the CCTV very closely. If you missed it, you can follow us on @collingwoodprim

Bikeability will take place for those pupils in Yr 6 who opted to take part.

We are hoping that Year 6 pupils will have some contact with staff from William De Ferrers whilst at Collingwood before August and believe that parents have been contacted directly by the school regarding entrance to Year 7.

A new section will shortly appear on our website aimed at pupils who are due to start school in September.

What you need to know going forward:

Free school meals: We were delighted to hear that the voucher scheme will continue over the summer holidays. School meals can still be booked if pupils are in school, (for any pupil). Let us know if you would like us to provide a food pack, for the remaining 3 days, to be sent home with your child, (for pupils eligible for free school meals). If you wish to apply for free school meals, see www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals. Contact us if you have any questions about free school meals, vouchers or the food bank on 01245 322258.

Home Learning: We are continuing to provide home learning resources for children in all year groups. Questions about the curriculum can still be directed to teachers via email but do not be surprised if they are passed on to other staff to respond. Most of your other questions can be answered by contacting us on 01245 322258. Feedback about Zoom calls with pupils at home and SEN meetings held with parents online has been very positive, thank you.

Safeguarding: As always, please contact myself or Mrs Minister as Designated Safeguarding Leads, or any teacher if you are concerned about a child's safety or phone 999 in an emergency. Please see our updated Safeguarding and Child Protection policies on the school website. www.collingwoodschool.net

Critical Worker children Returning: Please be aware that the Critical Worker definition has not changed. We are working at capacity whilst the 2m social distance rule is in place and

cannot make additional floor space regardless of how much you need childcare. The government have been clear about the need for employers to be sympathetic. The definition and list of categories for Critical Workers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

School Development: This term we are focussed on provision for pupils who have been offered a place for their child to start school, organising staffing and reviewing our curriculum to address the gaps in pupils knowledge and mental health needs for September.

Reminders about how school looks this term:

Please let us know, using the normal absence procedures if your child is not going to attend school as we will contact you if we have not heard from you. We will only be accepting new returners on the Monday or Thursday of each week so **you will need to let us know by the Thursday of the week before** on 01245 322258 or admin@collingwood.essex.sch.uk

Who should not attend school:

- Anyone who is "extremely clinically vulnerable", even to drop off or collect. If someone in your household is 'extremely clinically vulnerable' (shielded), the DfE guidance states that pupils should only attend school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to. It may be possible for a Year 6 child to do this but this would be highly unlikely for a Year 1 or Reception child.
- Any child, parent or member of staff displaying symptoms or living with another person showing symptoms.
- Anyone who has been contacted by Track and Trace.
- Pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

If a child or adult shows symptoms:

- Anyone can now be tested. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Any child or adult displaying symptoms at school, will be isolated in a separate office. The adult treating them will put on a face mask and gloves. Parents will be called to collect. We will inform parents individually of all pupils who we think may have had contact with a diagnosed person and then inform parents generally.

Social Distancing at School:

- The government acknowledges it might not be possible to keep young children apart, but says schools can mitigate the risk with "frequent hand cleaning", "regular cleaning" and "minimising contact and mixing".
- Staff attempt to maintain social distancing in school but may choose to get closer to comfort children if they become distressed.

- Although it will be discouraged, pupils may automatically touch someone to try to get their attention.
- In Yr 1 and 6 each child is sat at their own desk with their own equipment. Desks are spaced apart, with up to 9 pupils in each room (Up to 15 in the EYFS and Yr 6 double classrooms)
- EYFS pupils are not sat at desks all day and whilst sharing is limited, it is impossible to enforce.
- Children do not leave their classroom other than to go outside for adult led activities.
- Whilst waiting, to drop off or collect, please ensure that you socially distance.

Adaptation to our Behaviour Policy: *(We have not used this once...our pupils are amazing!)*

We are fully aware that most children are likely to forget to socially distance at some point. If children INTENTIONALLY do not adhere to social distancing, we will continue to use our yellow, orange card system as children already understand this. We will follow this procedure:

1. remind your child this is a rule to keep everyone safe.
2. speak to you in front of your child
3. issue a yellow card (Your child will lose 2 privileges at school - please show your disappointment)
4. issue an orange card (Your child will lose 4 privileges at school - please show your disappointment)
5. Your offer of on site schooling will be withdrawn due to unsafe behaviour towards others.

PPE:

- Staff and pupils will not routinely wear face coverings.
- Regular hand washing and "catch it, bin it, kill it," is encouraged throughout the day.
- Children are encouraged to share their fears about the virus and experiences during lockdown.

Cleaning:

- On Wednesdays, school is open only for Critical Worker children only as the whole building is thoroughly cleaned. The same happens on Friday/Saturday .
- Staff wipe surfaces, handles, light switches etc regularly and each night and cleaners clean classrooms.

What we are currently able to offer under the government guidelines:

- A maximum of 8-9 pupils will fit in each room with 15 in EYFS and Yr 6. With additional Critical Worker groups, all of our classrooms are being used which is why we cannot offer more than 2 days to pupils and cannot make new "bubbles".
- Adults cannot be with different "bubbles". Adults onsite on Mon-Tues are different to those here on Thurs- Fri other than sports coaches, office staff and myself and Mrs

Minister. Children will not be able to swap groups or days. Staff are having to communicate by mobile as they cannot move between rooms.

- Key worker children remain together in their own "bubbles". **We will not merge these children in their peer groups as they are likely to attend on different days.**
- Year 6 use the car park gate, Year 1 use the Collingwood Road gate, (not the main gate). E.Y.F.S. use the main entrance gate, turn left and enter via the EYFS classroom door. Preschool use the side gate, on the playground, at the top of Benbow Drive.
- Children bring as little into school as possible, a full, named water bottle which stays on their own desk and is taken home for cleaning and a packed lunch in disposable bags is all they need. Trainers can be worn, there is no need for PE bags. Uniform should be anything white and navy (no ties). Ideally we would like children to wear a clean set of clothes each day.
- Cover your child in "once a day" suncream as they will go outside every day for periods of adult led Physical activity and we cannot apply it for them.
- 7 'til 7 Club is currently closed until "bubbles" are able to mix.
- Working in such small groups is very intensive so we may let pupils watch a film, "play" or do artwork in the afternoons. Your child is likely to be tired and grumpy when you get them back! They might also tell you about the strange lady who keeps waving at them through windows and shouting "hello" from a distance...don't worry, it is me!

Support:

Families can self-refer if they feel in need of support in resolving or managing conflict in their relationships. <https://www.parentingtogethersupportprogramme.org.uk/spring-2020/essex/current-services-in-essex>

The Children's Society website has some excellent information for parents regarding signs of exploitation by gangs <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-is-county-line>

The NSPCC has some useful information about grooming on its website, including the signs, effects and how to report it. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/grooming/>

If you or your child inadvertently accesses sexual abuse material online it can be reported using the [Internet Watch Foundation website](#).

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 *is open six days a week and covers all areas of the curriculum across all phases of education. 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)

We are meant to be having a heatwave next week so please smother your child with suncream before school as we cannot do this for them. Remember that we are on the end of the phone still and hopefully, we will see you all soon.

Mrs Buckland-Garnett