



Collingwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2020

“We live our lives with arms and minds wide open”

I thought you might like to know more about life in school at the moment.

- I led my first “Virtual Assembly” last week which involved me being shut in my office, talking to myself for 20 minutes, without being able to hear the 241 pupils and staff who were watching on their class screens. The only way I knew that they were listening was when I saw them clapping and even this was confusing because there was a delay. We now have a children's FAQ session too.
- Pupils and staff, who are all in the building, do not see each other for several days.
- Staff often eat at desks because there are too many adults in the staff room.
- The light switches, door handles and taps are all very shiny from constant cleaning.
- We have “Handwashing Conga” in some rooms which is when children get their squirt of soap then dance, in a long line, around the room for 20 seconds whilst rubbing their hands, ending up back at the sink to wash the soap off. Year 3 have it down to 3 minutes and can do it in silence! (See photos below.)
- Children read to an adult they cannot see as they are sitting behind them.
- Mrs Minister and I “visit” classes daily either virtually or by waving through doors and windows but we are all very aware that we are more at risk of isolation and time off work, the more class bubbles we mix with.
- We continue to play with start and finish times at lunchtime. Children are getting quicker at handwashing and eating but this is still challenging.

As you can see it is all very strange but the children are taking it all in their stride. It is the adults who struggle. This does not feel comfortable for any of us!

Please do not panic and phone or email us if a member of staff is off sick...**we will inform you if we are aware of a positive case of Coronavirus** but Collingwood staff and pupils have low immunity due to lockdown, along with the rest of the country and many are now suffering from seasonal coughs and colds and all of the normal illnesses. It is not normal practice to let parents know if staffing has changed unexpectedly. Often, we only find out that someone is unwell that morning and currently have the added complication of only being able to call upon staff who are able to work in that class bubble.

Individual photographs took place this week but unfortunately the photographer was unwilling to take sibling photos.

We welcomed back Mr Ainsworth this week as individual guitar lessons began again for those pupils whose parents have given permission. Lessons take place in the Cosy Cabin on a 1:1 basis with cleaning in between each pupil.



We are happy for pupil Clubs, involving any one bubble, to start up again pending on our approval of their risk assessments. We will ask the leaders to make their risk assessment available to you so that you are able to make an informed decision about your child taking part. We will let you know if any of our current providers would like to resume.

I hope you found the "Meet The Teacher" presentations, posted on the class pages last night, useful in answering some of your questions.

Thank you to all in the Collingwood Family for continuing to work with us in supporting the children.

Mrs A Buckland-Garnett

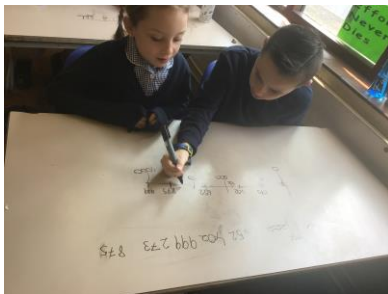
Hellos

Welcome to all 27 pupils who started full time school in E.Y.F.S. this week. You made a great start, well done.



There are some very tired children by the end of the week though...sorry parents! I was at the gate to welcome most pupils to EYFS on Monday morning and this morning but apologies if I did not get to chat to you. Mrs Minister and I are often in the playground before and after school but are currently rotating around all four gates at lots of different drop off and pick up times...this is not how we like to welcome parents to Collingwood.

Maths in Year 4. (yes they really are writing on the table! (wipe off pens.)



Frequently asked questions:

Who should not come onto the school site?

- Anyone displaying Covid-19 symptoms.*
- Anyone who has been contacted by Track and Trace and told to isolate.
- Anyone awaiting test results. (Please inform us of any results immediately)

*There are only 3 recognised symptoms of Covid-19: **a constant new cough, a high temperature, a loss of taste or smell.** If your child displays any of these, get a test and isolate until you know the result. For any other illness, please follow our normal rule which is "If they are well enough to learn, they are well enough to be in school."

How do I get a test?

Phone 111 or google "test centre near me" You can ask for a home test to be sent to you at <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>.

if you are concerned about someone who has symptoms use <https://111.nhs.uk/COVID-19> or phone 999.

What if the result is positive?

Please let us know via the admin@collingwood.essex.sch.uk email if someone in your household tests positive. The latest Government guidance can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> Household members who are self-isolating do not need to be tested unless symptoms develop. If we are informed that a pupil or member of staff has received a positive result, we will inform Public Health England who will inform us of the appropriate course of action. We will communicate this to parents as soon as we are able using text, email, letter etc. so **please ensure that we have your up to date contact details at all times.**

How will I know if my child has eaten their lunch?

If a pupil has a packed lunch any uneaten food will be in their lunchbox. If they stay for a school meal and do not eat much, the Mid-Day Supervisor will ring you. Please remember that pupils in EYFS also snack during the day so may not eat everything you send in. Pupils in Yrs 1 and 2 have fruit daily outside of lunch time.

How do I communicate with staff?

We would not encourage lengthy interactions at the beginning and end of day, even in normal circumstances as staff will be trying to safely hand children over and we would try to avoid conversations in front of other parents and in front of your own child.

You are welcome to email class teachers directly via their emails or ring us on 01245 322258 if you wish to ask a question or would like someone to phone you.

In October we will hold Virtual Termly Learning Conferences, which will give you an opportunity to discuss with class teachers, how your child has settled and what assessments have been carried out.

You can also contact the Phase Leader should you feel that your question has not been answered by the class teacher or if you need to know more about school life. The Phase Leaders are Mrs Hammond (shammond@collingwood.school), Mrs Macartney (amacartney@collingwood.school) and Mr Russell (crussell@collingwood.school) Mrs Minister and I are more than happy to contact you but class teachers first, followed by Phase Leaders are usually best placed to answer your questions.

Our School Development Priorities and Curriculum

We continue to focus on pupils' Mental Health (using the Film Inside Out) during September as well as assessing pupils' abilities and identifying any gaps in reading, writing, spelling and maths between now and October half term. Please see your child's class page on www.collingwoodschool.net for greater detail.

If you think we are doing a good job, please tell Ofsted by clicking here [Give your views](#)

Governor News

Our Statement of Governance, which details the membership, attendance and work carried out by our Governing Body is available to view on our school website.

Our Governing Body has continued to meet virtually throughout school closure. This week our new Child Protection Policy, our updated Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policy and Physical Restraint Policy (which included Parent Code of Conduct), Allegations against Adults in school procedures and Attendance Policy were all approved. These are available on our school website, on the policies page www.collingwoodschool.net

Message from Chelmsford Foodbank:

Chelmsford Foodbank provides emergency food for people in our local community in crisis. This year, sadly, many may need to access the service that have not needed to before. In order to obtain food, you need a voucher which can be accessed from the Child and Family Wellbeing Service

<https://www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk> 0300 247 0014, Or Citizen's Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/search-for-your-local-citizens-advice/local-citizens-advice-details/?serialnumber=100386>

01245 205579. You will then be able to collect food from the Foodbank centre or arrange for a delivery.

Dates for your diary

All dates can be found on our website calendar at www.collingwoodschool.net If school is ever closed, at short notice, it will appear on <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx> and the school website/twitter first and be announced on Essex FM and BBC Essex as soon as possible. Please avoid ringing the school as the phone is unlikely to be answered whilst we are organising staff!

Tues 20th - Thursday 22nd October Virtual Termly Learning Conferences (You will be sent booking details nearer the time.

Mon 26th - Fri 30th October Half Term

Mon 21st Dec-Fri 1st Jan Christmas Holidays

2021

Mon 4th Jan First day of Spring Term

Mon 15th - Fri 19th Feb Half Term

Mon 29th Mar - Fri 9th Apr Easter Break

Mon 3rd May May Day

Thursday 6th May School Closed for Polling

Mon 31st May-Fri 4th June Half Term

Friday 16th July Last Day for pupils

Mon 19th - 21st July Non Pupil Days - school closed

School Closure days for 2021-2022 are not usually agreed by Governors before June. These will appear here and on our website calendar as soon as these have been agreed.

other helpful sources of information

What to do if your child sees something upsetting online (Safer Internet Centre)

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-parents-what-do-if-your-child-sees-something-upsetting-online>

Online resources for parents & carers (Childnet International)

<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Parents-and-carers-resource-sheet-1019.pdf>

The Essex Family Support Service



- Families with children 8-19, younger siblings welcome
- Supporting families to develop & retain positive relationships
- Promoting safe choices & wellbeing
- Supporting people to meet with peers & communities
- Building healthy family relationships

Contact us:
01206 505250/families@community360.org.uk
or ask your local Family Hub

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline is available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling: Phone: 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm