

Collingwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 4th September 2020

"We live our lives with arms and minds wide open"

For the time being we will continue to send out a newsletter each Friday so that we are able to answer some of the frequently asked questions. Hopefully these will be a lot shorter than the ones you are used to! Don't forget that you are able to contact teachers directly but do not expect an immediate response. If it is urgent ring us on 01245 322258.

Extensive cleaning took place in school throughout August. Thanks to Mr Caton and our fantastic cleaners for their hard work in ensuring that the building was clean and ready for children to come back to.

There have been some strange but lovely goings on in school this week...have you ever danced happy birthday to someone or wiped a table down in time to music?

All staff and 98% of pupils returned to school on the first day of term. Pupils have come in safely and seem very pleased to be here and are complying with the new rules and procedures. I congratulate you all for remaining calm and focussed, for adhering to our requests and for putting our pupil's education first...the Collingwood Family is a team that I am proud to be part of! Thank you.

Mrs Buckland-Garnett

Hello

Welcome to Mrs Pasquale in Year 1 and Mrs Burroughs in Year 2 who joined us *officially* this week. We wish you a happy, long and successful time at Collingwood. Welcome back to Ms Campbell who returns with us from Maternity leave and is probably looking the most awake out of all of us returning to work!

Mrs Dodge is changing her role in school. She will be working with 4M on Wednesdays when Mrs Macartney will be carrying out her prestigious Maths Mastery Specialist Teacher work and is job sharing with Ms Campbell in 3CD as class teacher. It is great that we have been able to fill these vacancies with a very experienced member of staff who has worked at Collingwood for many years and knows the children really well, already. Thank you Mrs Dodge.

Frequently asked questions:

Why can't parents wait on the playground?

The 2M social distance rule still stands. Adults are more likely to transmit the virus than the under 12s. Staff are doing everything they can to limit their contact with each other so that they do not become unwell or, if they do we have tried to limit the likelihood of all staff becoming unwell. We ask all parents to do the same. This is why we are using all 4 gates. It is the adults gathering that is the problem, not the children as they remain in their class bubbles so contact is limited to that group only. Congestion at the gate is also due to parents turning up early. We know how keen you are to have your children back but teachers will only bring out one class at a time and this will be in the order we agreed,

Why do I have to use my allocated gate?

You have been allocated the gate with the most direct route to your child's class door so that they do not need to walk through another bubble. We are very lucky to have the luxury of 4 gates. We have as few classes as possible using the gate by the road. (only 2 and not at the same time). If parents socially distance, arrive at their allocated time and hold their child's hand, there should not be any issues regarding road safety.

When will Clubs start again?

Our Governing Body will discuss this at their next meeting on 17th September. We have not allowed any lettings since March which has obviously been a financial loss to the school but will not do so until we are sure that there is no increased risk to our pupils or staff.

What if I do not want to send my child to school?

The Government expects all pupils to return to school full time, therefore it is important for you to know that attendance will become mandatory again.

Who should not attend school:

- Anyone displaying symptoms or living with another person showing symptoms. (*symptoms are only a constant new cough, temperature, loss of taste or smell, not any cold symptom. If unsure, please see the NHS website.*)
- Anyone who has been contacted by Track and Trace and told to isolate.
- Anyone awaiting test results. (Please inform us of any results immediately)

Information about Penalty Notice criteria, particularly for those pupils who do not return to school for the first day in September, can be found on the back of our Leave of Absence form. no term time holidays are authorised at Collingwood unless a signed employer's letter is provided stating that the dates are the ONLY ones that can be taken. In this event, only one term time holiday will be authorised in any academic year and not during or in the term leading up to national assessment periods.

Essex County Council's criteria for issuing Penalty Notices is:

- *where there have been at least 10 consecutive sessions (1 day = 2 sessions) of unauthorised absence for the purpose of a holiday, whereby a parent made an application to the School which the Head Teacher has deemed not for exceptional circumstances.*
- *whereby the parent did not submit a leave of absence request, however the school have reason to believe the absence was for the purpose of a holiday*
- *if there have been at least 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) of unauthorised absence during the first two weeks of September due to a term-time holiday.*
- *where there has been at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence during the previous 10 school weeks.*

Our School Development Priorities and Curriculum

Staff returned to school the day before the children this term to finalise our adapted Catch Up and Recovery Curriculum. We will focus on pupils Mental Health (using the Film Inside Out) and establish all of the new routines 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 really think that we have done a good job, please tell Ofsted 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.

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!

Thursday 3 rd September	First Day for Pupils
Tuesday 15 th September	Whole school individual photographs (Social distancing, Bubbles and hygiene as school.)
Tues 20 th - Thursday 22 nd October	Virtual Termly Learning Conferences
Mon 26 th - Fri 30 th October	Half Term
Mon 21 st Dec-Fri 1 st Jan	Christmas Holidays

2021

Mon 4 th Jan	First day of Spring Term
Mon 15 th - Fri 19 th Feb	Half Term
Mon 29 th Mar - Fri 9 th Apr	Easter Break
Mon 3 rd May	May Day
Thursday 6 th May	School Closed for Polling
Mon 31 st May-Fri 4 th June	Half Term
Friday 16 th July	Last Day for pupils
Mon 19 th - 21 st July	Non Pupil Days - school closed