



Collingwood Primary School Newsletter Friday 11th December 2020

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

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This week numbers of staff and parents being notified by Track and Trace to isolate, has increased dramatically. **What concerns us all in school now is that anyone asked to isolate after Thursday 10th December will be spending Christmas in a room alone!**

We received information from the Department of Education on end of term arrangements late on Tuesday. The headlines are:

- **The DfE has suggested that schools move one of their INSET days to Friday 18th December and use this for virtual staff training.** *We are unable to do this as our 5 I.N.S.E.T. days have already been allocated ie one in September for staff to ensure school was safe for pupils to return, one in May which has been forced upon us as we will be used as a polling station and three in July enabling Collingwood families to take advantage of cheaper holiday prices. Such short notice of an INSET day would cause childcare issues for many of our families. If we were to use 18th Dec as an INSET day, children would have to come into school for one day during the week beginning 19th July or return on 1st Jan which I do not believe is either sensible or beneficial. We are not allowed to take any extra I.N.S.E.T. days.*
- **Schools must stay open for pupils until (Thursday 17th, if Friday is an INSET day or) Friday 18th Dec.** *Collingwood plans to be open until Friday 18th., as long as we have enough staff.*
- **Families and staff need to continue to inform school of positive cases if symptoms appear before 3:30pm on Sunday 20th December so that close contacts can be informed to isolate.** *Whilst I understand that we are best placed to identify contacts, this is an added burden for already tired staff who will be thinking of their own families. Full details of what you need to do if this happens to you, can be found at the end of this newsletter.*
- **Schools staff will continue to be responsible for informing close contacts of positive cases until Thursday 24th December.** *(After this date the person would not have been infectious whilst at school.)*

In line with many Essex schools, Collingwood will provide remote education for all pupils including critical worker's children and vulnerable pupils on Monday 4th January 2021. This will allow myself, Mrs Minister, Mrs Wraight and Mrs De'Ath to ascertain how many staff and pupils will be self-isolating on Tuesday 5th January. Teachers will communicate exact arrangements with you but work will be published on Google Classroom and Tapestry in the evening on Sunday 3rd January allowing working parents early access. If well, teachers will provide an opportunity for pupils to "see" them virtually on the day. All pupils who are well should participate in remote learning on Monday and return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at the same arrival time as now.

The Government have updated their advice to parents including information on Ofsted Inspections, SATs, GCSEs and A Levels. [Click here to find out more. parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) to

As we near the end of term with our fingers and toes crossed that we will all have a virus free Christmas, I would very much like to publicly say a personal thank you to all Collingwood staff for their tireless work in keeping our pupils and each other safe, for all the restrictions they have placed on themselves, their families

and their own lives, for their never ending enthusiasm in front of pupils and their absolute refusal to let the virus get in the way of making learning fun! They are an amazing bunch and I feel very, very lucky to have them as I know many of you do too!

Mrs A Buckland-Garnett

Christmas Lunch (and Jumper Day)...we all joined in too but didn't get to take photos of everyone!



Thank you to Mrs Chettur and Mrs Watts for our lovely Christmas lunch and to all of our Mid-Day Assistants for making it work this year despite the restrictions! We raised £178 for "Christmas Jumper Day", which will be donated to "Save the Children" - thank you to everyone that donated.

This week Class RR have had great fun making snowflakes ❄️, decorating a Christmas tree and having Christmas 🎄 Dinner together.



Making Snowflakes



Christmas

Dinner Fun



Year 6 had great fun during Christmas jumper day, they enjoyed a super Christmas dinner and took part in a Christmas quiz.

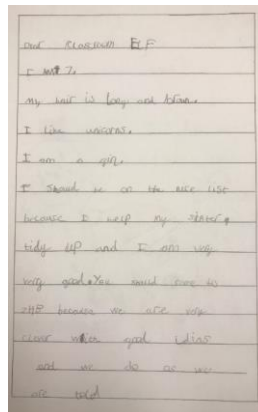
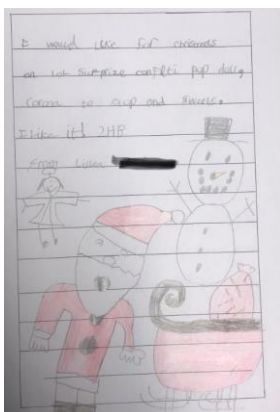


Curriculum News

Catch Up and Curriculum Recovery

Staff are finishing their assessments with all pupils this week to see if they have "Caught Up" in some of their key reading, writing and maths skills since returning in September. We are already seeing improvements in handwriting and spelling especially and will be communicating this information with you in our new Supporting Learning Books. Our Year 2 pupils have now taken the Phonics screener that they should have taken in Year 1. Parents will receive their own child's results from class teachers after the holiday.

Last week Year 2 had a very exciting letter from the classroom elves. We had to reply with our own persuasive letters to tell the elves why they should come to 2HB. We planned what we were going to write, wrote the letters, sent them and even decorated the classroom. We did such an amazing job that we now have two classroom elves that we named Snowflake and Snowball.



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

Governor News

Our Governing Body has its own page on our website. (Click on the link top right) 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 policies can be found, on our school website, on the policies page www.collingwoodschool.net

We need you!

Please do not forget the letter emailed to you about our Parent Governor elections. Please contact the school office on 01245 322258 if you wish to speak to one of our existing governors to find out more about what this rewarding role involves. All nomination forms need to be completed and returned to the main office not later than **Thursday 14th January 2021**. Our Governors look forward to hearing from you.

A special thank you from Joe Wicks



Hi guys,

I just wanted to say a huge thanks to all of you for supporting BBC Children in Need again this year. We know it's been a really tough year, so whatever you did to support it is so appreciated.

I hope you enjoyed joining in with me for my 24 hour PE challenge – it was incredible to see so many of you getting involved and having you join in really helped me to make it to the end of the 24 hours! Hope to see you soon! Thank you!

Joe Wicks, BBC Children in Need Ambassador

As we enter winter and pupils and staff develop all of the normal coughs and colds associated with this time of year, do not assume the worst if staff are absent, we continue to attend meetings and training virtually so may be absent for other valid reasons and promise that we will always tell you if we are notified of a positive case. **Remember that if a member of your household is symptomatic, the whole household must self-isolate until the test result is received.** Pupils should not be in school whilst someone is waiting for results

Dates for your diary

All dates can be found 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!

Mon 21st Dec-Fri 1st Jan

Christmas Holidays

2021

Mon 4th Jan

First day of Spring Term (Non Pupil Day)

Tues 5th Jan

Pupils return to school

Fri 15th Jan

Closing date for Primary School applications - Sept 2021 start

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

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 sources of information and support

Don't forget that we hold a wealth of information from organisations wanting to support you in times of financial hardship. If you think that you may be eligible, please email admin@collingwood.essex.sch.uk briefly outlining your circumstances and Mrs De'Ath or Mrs Wraight will contact you with any relevant information we hold.

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

Chelmsford Foodbank: 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.

Community and Family workshops for parents are added weekly -so please keep checking <https://aclessex.com/community-family-learning-online/>

PRINT AND KEEP THIS PAGE SOMEWHERE SAFE

Information for Parents regarding COVID19 Contact Tracing over the Christmas Holiday period

***How do I contact school during the holidays?** You should contact the school on admin@collingwood.essex.sch.uk between the hours of 9am and 3pm. You will not get an immediate response but this email address will be monitored. DO NOT telephone as staff will not be onsite.

★How do I get a test? Book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer. ONLY THOSE WITH SYMPTOMS SHOULD SEEK A TEST.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 within 48 hours of being in school (before 3:30pm on Sunday 20th, if here on Friday 18th)

1. You must seek a test for your child★
2. The household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.
3. You should let us know who has developed symptoms.*
4. If the test is positive for COVID19, you must tell us * so that we can identify close contacts. Please provide the following in your email to school: name of positive person/date of symptoms starting/class/bubbles part of in school during the 2 days before symptoms
5. If the test is negative, please tell us* and you do not need to take any further action.

If your child tests positive with no symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (before 3:30pm on Sunday 20th, if here on Friday 18th)

1. You must inform Collingwood*, who will identify and inform close contacts.
2. Please provide the following in your email to school: name of positive person/date of symptoms starting/class or bubbles part of in school during the 2 days before symptoms.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school (ie after 3:30pm on Sunday 20th, if here on Friday 18th)

1. You must seek a test for your child★
2. The household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.
3. You should let us know who has developed symptoms.*
4. If the test is positive for COVID19, you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/
5. If the test is negative, please tell us* and you do not need to take any further action.

If your child has no symptoms of COVID19 but tests positive within 48 hours of being in school (before 3:30pm on Sunday 20th, if here on Friday 18th)

1. You must inform Collingwood*, who will identify and inform close contacts.
2. Please provide the following in your email to school: name of positive person/date of symptoms starting/class or bubbles part of in school during the 2 days before symptoms.

If you are contacted by the school because your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19, they must self-isolate for 14 days.

If your child is unable to attend school on Tuesday 5th January

DO NOT CONTACT US BEFORE MONDAY 4th JANUARY.

Please use schoolcomms to let us know your child's name and why they cannot attend school.

