



Collingwood Primary School Newsletter Friday 15th January 2021

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

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Many of you have told us that you welcome the changes we made to our weekly plans. Generally, the flexibility to move things around and the class live calls have been very well received, thank you for your feedback. Well done to all of our home schooling adults...we do realise how hard it is, Keep up the great work and do not blame yourself when it does not work out how you planned! Next week, we have added a new box giving ideas of easy things to fall back on if it all goes wrong.

If you or your child are struggling, please remember the Family Support section on our website (top right of the screen www.collingwoodschool.net) which contains lots of national and local information. There is no shame in admitting that you are struggling...we all are in some form or other. Alternatively, at the end of every newsletter there are helplines and contact details for organisations that can help you.

We still have 18-27 pupils coming in each day, in three bubbles. **Critical worker and Vulnerable children arrive and leave at different times and are here only for the duration that their parents are working, so that they have as little contact with others as possible. These children have no choice.** All staff are on site at some point but we have been able to reduce staffing on some days now that we know which pupils are going to be here and when. We have continued to keep staff in the same bubbles other than sports coaches who work with different bubbles whilst socially distancing. **I would like to remind you that just because you "qualify" for a school place this does not mean that your child must come to school. If someone on site tests positive, staff and children will need to isolate which will stop critical workers going into work. Please consider if it is absolutely necessary in your circumstances.**

Remote Learning and Laptops

This week you will have received details of our remote learning provision. I am pleased to tell you that I have now finally been able to access 16 government laptops, which should arrive next week. Thank you so much to the anonymous parents who sent in their old devices for us to give to pupils at home, this is really, really appreciated. Together with some school spares, we will be able to lend out a further 9 devices to pupils who are struggling to access work on mobile phones, at the time of writing this. We still have a waiting list so please keep them coming, however old they are. Don't forget that you can access Google Classroom on X-Box, Playstations, mobiles and some smart TVs and, if not, we can provide paper copies, on request. Many internet companies are offering free data so it might be worth giving your provider a ring to tell them you have a child learning at home.

The majority of our pupils are not eligible for Government laptops...16 for 246 pupils. Therefore, you will be aware that we secured a bulk buy discount so that we can offer you the option of buying a device at a lower cost than you might be able to elsewhere. **I am not telling you that you have to buy one, much of our work does not require an online device.** £139.99 for a Lenovo Chromebook 100e, delivery date is now expected March. Payments can be made via schoolcomms no later than 10am Monday 18th January.

Stay safe, keep smiling, take the vaccine if you are offered it and talk to someone if you feel anxious. We will get through this!

Mrs A Buckland-Garnett

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

We regularly email free school meals voucher information to parents. If you think you are eligible and have not heard from us, please email admin@collingwood.essex.sch.uk

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

Welcome

There was only one nomination received for Parent Governor so there is no need to hold an election. Congratulations to Danielle Anderson, we wish you a long and successful term of office working as part of the Governing Body to improve the work of the school.

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!

Fri 15th Jan	Closing date for Primary School applications - Sept 2021 start
Weds 27th Jan	Safer Internet Day
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
Thurs 6 th May	School Closed for Polling
Mon 31 st May-Fri 4 th June	Half Term
Fri 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.

Additional support for families in other aspects is available from essex.gov.uk/topic/support-for-residents

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/>

Remote Learning: Working in partnership with you!

We know that parents are not teachers...we find this way of working intense and exhausting too! We are all in this together so let's make it work in the best way that we can!

- Do not be too hard on yourself if something goes wrong or if you do not cover everything.
- Expect your child to work on their own for some time each day. They would not have constant 1:1 adult support in school so should not have it at home. Teachers will not have set impossible tasks for children although we have probably set too much work so that fast workers do not run out.
- There is nothing wrong with doing something that is not on the plan if it benefits your child's learning. Cooking, waterplay and playdough can be a maths (shape/measurement/descriptive language/physical manipulation) and science lesson, writing a shopping list, reading something that is not a reading book etc all have value. Have a list of things to fall back on which your child can do without you eg write a diary, put spellings into sentences, copy out some text in your best joined up handwriting, read a book, draw a picture, listen to an audio book/non-fiction book/website and write down main points/formulate 10 questions etc
- Do not feel guilty about using The Oak National Academy (www.thenational.academy) or BBC Bitesize (www.bbc.co.uk) or putting your child in front of an educational television programme instead of doing the work that has been set, if it fits in better with your circumstances. Just let teachers know what your child did instead so that we do not chase you to submit work.
- Organise the learning in a way that suits your circumstances...not all of it needs to be done at specific times although planning times for work and times for breaks/play is really important. Plans from next week will be set out differently allowing you more flexibility.
- Please do not submit more work than has been asked for, teachers have not got time to respond to it.
- Remember to say "well done!" to your children and to yourself...you are doing something really hard...could I do your job especially without training and at such short notice?

Mrs BG

