

## Cottingham Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

### December/January Update

At the start of my previous October/November update, I commented upon the whole school attendance being at 98%. I am so pleased to tell you that the current attendance is also 98%, which after two terms is very pleasing. This term is notorious for absence, of both staff and children, due to winter bugs for example. I would struggle to find a previous year when the attendance has been so good. As always, the positive attendance, in my opinion, is down to a number of factors including school cleaning procedures, parent/school awareness of Covid-19 rules, self-hygiene and teaching/learning that is of interest to the children. I hope that we all remain safe and well during the break and can continue to show good attendance for the long term. I look forward to welcoming the children to the spring term on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. The staff and I will have been back from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** ensuring that lessons/school are both ready for the children.

As with previous correspondence, I have provided you (below) with some headlines/updates that I hope will answer any questions that you have before we break for the festive holiday. Please do note that any decisions/plans made now are again subject to change and as usual, any changes/updates will be made via the usual channels.

### Classes/Intervention

As you know, on our return to school in the autumn, the majority of the children sat baseline assessments so that we could gauge any gaps in knowledge as a result of being away from the classroom for such a long time. Ever since these assessments were completed, the children have been busy learning both in/out of the classroom. Many gaps have been filled with missed/forgotten knowledge and understanding. During the last few weeks, further assessments have been completed and I can announce that much progress has been made. A huge well done to the staff and children for all of their efforts. It is pleasing also, that whilst we have put a large emphasis upon maths, reading and writing, other subjects have not been discarded and the children have had access to a safe curriculum. The data from these assessments will be analysed and selected children will receive intervention from the onset of the spring term.

### Hygiene/Cleaning/PPE

We all continue to be more mindful of our own self-hygiene. We wash our hands at every opportunity and use anti-bacterial gel as an extra precaution. At school, we will continue to promote and expect consistent, good hygiene practises from the staff and the children and from our visitors. We will continue to have high expectations of you at home with promoting good hygiene both before and after school. Each class will continue to have a hygiene bay consisting of tissues, anti-bac gel and promotional messages/reminders. The staff and I will constantly remind the children of our expectations and will expect all children to adhere to them with no exceptions. Children must still wash their hands thoroughly before leaving the house. A consistent and regular cleaning schedule continues and will do so in the future. At all times, the staff and children continue to have access to PPE if it is required. Please be reminded that we ask parents/visitors, who come into the building or on the school grounds, to wear a face mask. Being alert and following the rules will help us to maintain and improve upon 98% attendance.

Please also refer to the Christmas contract tracing information that was sent out this week. We fully support the government track and trace and would urge you to follow the instructions contained in that information. Please use [head@cottinghamprimary.co.uk](mailto:head@cottinghamprimary.co.uk) for any correspondence.

**As always, it is important that I remind you to not sending in your child to school if they are showing any symptoms of Covid-19 and to self-isolate if they test positive. If at any time you need any support or have a question regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.**

### Uniform/PE kit/Resources

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From the start of the spring term, we will continue to expect all children to wear school uniform and will continue to allow the children to wear PE kit to school on PE days. The children all have two funded PE T-shirts so please ensure that these are worn under a tracksuit/hoody etc. We are still finding items of uniform with no name. Please be reminded to name all items of clothing. Also, if your child takes home the wrong item of uniform, please return it to the class teacher.

Due to our lack of space, we continue to ask the children NOT to bring in a large rucksack to school as they are not needed. All of the equipment needed, we will continue to provide. Children needing personal hygiene items for example will be permitted to bring a small bag into school. By now your child will have brought home a resource pack that they should be using to assist them not only with homework but will be ready for use if needed for remote learning. Please ensure this learning pack is looked after and used for school work only. Please do Tweet in any pictures of the learning packs being used at home.

### Learning/Curriculum/Reports

As you know, the children are taught a broad and balanced curriculum <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum> and continue to take part in termly QUESTS. Please be reminded to take a look at [www.cottinghamprimary.co.uk](http://www.cottinghamprimary.co.uk) where further information regarding our curriculum is available. To adhere to the advice to continue with a broad and balanced curriculum, all subjects, will be taught (if safe to do so). During the last few weeks we have also been able to allow small group guitar lessons. 22 places were snapped up quickly and those children will have the option to continue their lessons in the spring term. I am also very hopeful that drumming tuition will be offered to children from year 2-6 in the not too distant future.

In the past we have sent you our plans for remote learning. Fortunately, the plans have not yet been put into full swing. If your child is off school for a few days whilst awaiting Covid-19 test results, you can access the Medium term learning planners on the school website. They will provide ideas for home learning. I would also urge all children, regardless of whether they are awaiting test results or not, to continue to read regularly and keep on top of their mental maths (Times tables) as a minimum. As previously stated, in a case, where your child is to be absent for a longer period of time, we would arrange for learning planners to be sent home. My Maths, TTRS (Times tables), spellings and regular reading will be the expected work that children will continue to complete at home.

You will receive an autumn term report via Parentmail. This report will provide information regarding end of year expectations along with attitude, behaviour and attendance information. The attached letter will provide you with further information. By the end of the term you will have also received curriculum plans and a class update for what your child will be taught next term. These will also be available on the school website.

### Classroom layout/Bubbles/Staggered timings

The current bubbles that we have all become accustomed to will continue from the onset of the spring term and will remain in place until further government guidance is provided to us. The current provision arrangements will continue also with KS2 classes having lunch together in class and children in Ash and Willow eating together in the hall. A hot lunch option for both Ash and Willow has worked well and as a result will continue for children in those classes. The outside lunch arrangements for KS2 will continue with a zonal rota that ensures all children have the opportunity to keeping active throughout the week.

Our current arrangements at the start/end of the day will continue in the spring term. I would continue to urge you to park away from the school, lose your 'lazy legs' and be mindful of our residents and the safety of everyone. It was nice to receive positive feedback recently regarding observations of more parents/children parking and walking from Middleton and the Spread Eagle car park. Again, for safety reasons, please refrain from using the school car park. Permission letters will be sent out at the start of the new term for you to allow your child to leave the school unaccompanied (This will be for year 5/6 pupils only)

I again refer you to the consistent message that we, 'cannot eliminate every risk but we can minimise them.' I believe the whole Cottingham CofE community has carried out a pretty good job thus far. Any changes, if any, made during next term will again be done so in the interests of health and safety. I understand that you may well have a question regarding the information within this update. I would certainly welcome any questions as part of our commitment to **ENGAGE – CONSULT – DISCUSS.**

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Please email me, [head@cottinghamprimary.co.uk](mailto:head@cottinghamprimary.co.uk) with any questions and include January in the subject field. Please also feel free to send an email to say 'Hi.' I will collate all questions and respond with an update during next term. I would like the staff to make sure that they take a well earned break during half term and I would not expect them to read/respond to email for example. I will check my email account throughout the holiday so please do contact me if needed. I look forward to seeing you all soon. I miss you all and I wish you a very happy holiday. Stay alert and stay safe!

Yours faithfully,

Ashley Scott (Headteacher)