

Cottingham Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parent/carer,

July Update

I have received a few very valid questions regarding end of year and September 20/21 so wanted to give you all an update. As you can imagine, this and the final few weeks will be hectic and like you, I am slightly going into the unknown in some cases whilst I await further Government news etc. I hope the notes below answer some of your questions. I really appreciate your patience and understanding. I often talk about you all and tell others that you do not bombard the staff and I with questions/concerns, that you are patient and above all supportive. It certainly makes my job easier at this time having you all on board as you are. There will be some decisions that I have had to make that will not please everyone. I am reassured to know that you will appreciate this and that you trust any decision made by the staff and I. As always, I will keep you updated with further information over the next few weeks.

Annual Reports/New classes

All reports will be sent out by the end of next week. A covering letter will explain any changes to the usual report format. Within my Head teacher comments, you will see which class and teacher your children will be with next year. Again, further information will be provided in a covering reports letter. Reports will be sent via Parent mail rather than providing paper copies. Please inform Mrs Southcombe of any changes to your details or circumstances. To avoid sending out 132 reports one by one, they will be sent as follows:

Willow/Ash – Tuesday
Oak/Beech – Wednesday
Hawthorn – Thursday

There will be an option to arrange a chat with your child's class teacher as well as providing feedback in the usual way. We would certainly appreciate notice that you have received the report. There will also be a link to the Ofsted Parentview where I would welcome your up to date feedback upon various areas of school life.

Teacher Gifts

I do not like to presume that you would be looking to provide your child's teacher with an end of year gift/card. It has somewhat become tradition for all of us though. The staff and I are always overwhelmed by your generous gifts and well wishes at various times throughout the year. Due to the current climate, it may not be as easy to give a gift to the teacher. I would like to propose that instead of providing a gift/card, you instead send a message to the teacher either via email directly or by using the report feedback form. As well as this, you might like to donate a small amount to a charity of your choice. You might want to consider 'Compassion UK' for example. If you do decide to take this option, please let me know as it will be great to see how much is raised. You may also prefer to donate a reading book to the library as you did during the World book day. The staff and I would certainly enjoy having more books to share. If you would like to do this we will again add 'donated by' stickers to each book. These are purely suggestions as I know you will have made arrangements for gifts etc. If you would like your child to personally drop off a gift then you are welcome to give the office a call with an approximate time when you could hand over to the teacher if they are available. A kind message at the end of a long year is always very much appreciated by any member of staff. **See below re gifts for Mrs Wason/Miss Moseley.**

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Mrs Wason/Miss Moseley

I am aware that there has been a collection for both Mrs Wason and Miss Moseley regarding parent gifts. Any gifts for Mrs Wason can be presented at the Year 6 Leaver's Picnic on the playground. As Miss Moseley is leaving, some of the children and adults will want to say goodbye and present her with a gift. On the afternoon of **Friday 17th July**, children from Beech class along with one adult are welcome to attend a socially distanced surprise farewell. If you would like to attend, please arrive at the Mill Road gate up to 1:15. I will then usher you in and ensure that relevant hygiene and distancing is maintained. At that time, there will be a fake fire drill. Miss Moseley will then be presented with her school leaving gift, receive some well wishes from myself and then have the chance to say goodbye to you. If you would still like to contribute towards a leaving gift, please contact Mrs Southcombe as soon as possible.

Leaver's Graduation

It has become a Cottingham CofE custom to hold a year 2 and year 6 graduation. For obvious reasons both of these red carpet events cannot take place this year. Today the year 6 will find out about their very special Picnic on the playground. Mrs Wilson and I have decided to postpone the year 2 graduation ceremony until September. This event will see them move from KS1 to KS2 with some wise words and gift presented to them. We really hope that parents would be able to attend by holding in September. If not then I am sure Zoom could be used in some way.

End of year service

Covid-19 and the subsequent 'lockdown,' has already put pay to many different church services which we are very sad about. The year 6 children will certainly receive their very own send-off, although other year groups will this year miss out on a final church service. Mrs Wilson and I have also made the very difficult decision to not present the two special awards that were introduced last year. Again, this was a very hard decision but one that we have made based on the circumstances. Instead, we will dedicate the awards to the NHS and have the 2020 plaque scribed as such. Ideally look forward to a time when we can all congregate again in our lovely, local church.

Pupil Books

Usually, children take home their exercise books at the end of a school year with the odd few kept back to show progress etc. Unfortunately, we will only be able to send home books with the children who are amongst those present on the last day of term. In many cases, un-finished books will be taken into the next class. This includes RE and Art for example as we want the children to continue working in the book from September. This will then hopefully be the norm moving forward. Any books that are not sent home will be recycled or kept as evidence of super progress or presentation for example.

Lost Property

We have a few items of lost property at school including; lunch boxes and PE bags etc. If you believe your child has something at school, contact Mrs Southcombe and arrangements can be made for you to collect. Any lost property that remains on the final day of the term will be recycled accordingly. Please note that we will not be contacting you regarding lost property.

School return for all pupils

You will have read lots of information regarding a return to school for the Autumn Term 2020. As I am writing this update, further guidance has been provided to schools. Rather than summarise this guidance to you now, I will be meeting with other PDET colleagues next week and will provide further information before the end of the term. It looks likely that the main headline will be that ALL children will be expected to return to school in September (Wednesday 2nd September) with different measures in place as you would imagine. At this time, being in a trust is worth its weight in

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gold. Between the schools, we will be able to put our heads together to come up with the best plan that works for each school. You can trust that I will have the health and safety of the children, staff and community at the forefront of any plan that I put in place. Please do hold fire on any further questions that today's announcement might give you. I will provide more details during the next week. What I will agree on is the need for ALL children to return to school in September and I will ensure that any plans made will allow this to happen.

Term dates 2020/2021 – Social media

You will have read in the last edition of the Cottingham CofE News that changes had been made to the previously proposed term dates for 2020/2021 including a change to INSET dates. Please visit www.cottinghamprimary.co.uk for further information. The school calendar on the website will also be changed/updated accordingly. As well as the website, I would certainly recommend that you follow the school and my own account on Twitter if you do not already do so. Twitter, along with Parentmail is now the main channel that we use and will be using to promote the school and provide various updates etc. You may have also noticed that the school has an official Facebook site. I will be aiming to use this in the future to keep you updated. There will be one final Cottingham CoF News sent home before the end of the term. If you would like to include a message please email them over to me.

Sports Day

In over 20 years of teaching, this will be the first year that I have not been involved in both town/schools own sports day. Mr Stafford could not let that happen and you might have seen some information regarding a virtual sports day starting soon. Please join in at home if you can! It would be great to see your pictures emailed over or shared via Twitter for example. How many children/parents can we get joining in? The challenge is on!

I am sure that there is far more information that I could share with you. The info above does though answer some of the questions that I have received of late.

Yours faithfully,

Ashley Scott (Headteacher)