

Cottingham Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

October/November Update

It is hard to believe that the first of six terms is almost over. I have said before that the main goal this term was to ensure all staff and pupils returned happily and healthily. I think that we have all worked well together to achieve that and as it stands 98% attendance for the term is a better return than would be normally expected. I would also add that our success with attendance, along with luck and prayers, is also down to the super teaching and support staff that teach and look after the children. The children want to come to school. Long may this continue but in the meantime please do have an amazing half term break and stay safe and well. I will then look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 3rd November.....**

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

Classes

Congratulations to Mrs Lloyd who has successfully completed her first term with us. The children and staff have ensured that she has settled in well and developed a good rapport with the children in Beech class. It has not been a normal start to the year as a new teacher so a huge well done to Mrs Lloyd for adapting so well. In KS2, I have been amazed with the amount of work that has been completed this term. Exercise books that were fresh and new just a few weeks ago are almost full of maths, writing and art work for example. In KS1, the children and staff have made a superb start to providing continuous provision for the children. By the end of this week you will receive class termly planners that will provide you with curriculum updates and how you can get involved with your child's learning during the holiday for example.

On our return to school this term, the majority of the children sat assessments so that we could gauge any gaps in knowledge as a result of being away from the classroom for such a long time. As you can imagine, many gaps were found and as a result teachers have been planning to plug these gaps. Some children are receiving regular intervention and some children will shortly receive catch up tuition as part of the Governments offer to fund this. More information will be shared shortly.

I must also welcome some new children to the school including; Tristan, Myles, Erica, Summer, Joshua and Sophia and of course our Willow new starters. All children have settled in well as per usual due to the care of their new peers and staff.

Attendance

As mentioned above and via Twitter this term, attendance has been very good and certainly above the national average. We do not reward children with attendance awards but instead provide them with a safe, secure and super learning environment in which they can flourish. Of course, there has been the need for staff and children to isolate whilst awaiting test results for example and we have also had the usual runny noses and coughs that are common at this time of year. Upon our return to school, we will resume our normal attendance policy that will include daily phone call checks etc. We would ask that you phone into school in the usual way if your child is unable to attend. As always, all holiday requests will be unauthorised. The usual end of term attendance letters will once again be used as these will allow me to provide support and challenge if necessary if attendance is erratic or below our expectations of 95/96%.

Well-being/Safeguarding

As always, our staff are on hand to **CARE - BUILD - FOLLOW** and **THINK**. The children, where needed, have spoken to adults regarding any concerns that they might have. The children can drop a note into our emotions box in the hall for example. This has already been used during the term. It was pleasing to read notes placed in the box that described 'happiness' at school. We always remind the children that they can talk to anyone at school. Please note that the school phone will be unattended throughout the half

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term holiday. In all cases where you have a safeguarding/well-being concern and cannot contact the appropriate staff you can make a referral via:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/help-and-protection-for-children/Pages/report-a-concern.aspx> **If it is an emergency and you think that a child may be in immediate danger please contact the emergency services directly by calling 999. If you need to contact urgently during the evening, at night or at the weekend, please phone out-of-hours team on 01604 626 938.**

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. We will also 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.

Uniform/PE kit/Resources

We continue to expect all children to wear school uniform and as it seems to be successful will continue to be allowed to wear PE kit to school on PE days. By the start of next term you will have hopefully received a new funded PE T-shirt. As always, please be reminded to name all items of clothing. As you can imagine, it is not easy to return an un-named school jumper to its rightful owner. I am looking forward to seeing the usual sea of red return to school next term.

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. Your child will be bringing home a resources pack that will 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. (There is a national shortage of the large cases so all children will receive one when we have a supply). Please do Tweet in any pictures of the learning packs being used at home.

Learning/Curriculum

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 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). We also hope to begin 1:1 musical tuition in the not too distant future!

You will have recently received information regarding our plans for remote learning. We hope that they are not required but we want to be as prepared as we can. I continue to encourage all children to read regularly and keep on top of their mental maths as a minimum. If you haven't logged onto Times Tables Rock Stars yet – please do so. This will ensure that their minds are active. In a case, where your child is to be absent for a period of time, we would arrange for the 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.

It has been pleasing to be able to offer the children regular PE sessions. More often than not, all classes receive two PE sessions per week as well as completing the Daily Mile. Children in year 2 have taken part in weekly tennis sessions provided by Corby Tennis Centre and we recently took part in an athletics event where we competed virtually with other local schools. The children will have similar curling and badminton events to look forward to next term. Keep an eye on our Twitter feed for further updates.

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Classroom layout/Bubbles/Staggered timings

From next term, we will continue to allow the children to work in their current bubbles. A part from a few, planned exceptions, the bubbles will remain in place for the foreseeable future. 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 will be trialled for these two classes upon our return. The outside lunch arrangements for KS2 have worked well. Having a zonal rota ensures that all children have the opportunity to play sports, use the trim trail and the tyres during the week thus keeping everyone active.

Our current arrangements at the start/end of the day will continue next term also. We are fortunate to have a number of entrance/exit points and so we will use them to minimise any risks to the children, staff and parents. As I have done on a number of occasions, I would urge you to park away from the school, lose your 'lazy legs' and be mindful of our residents and the safety of everyone. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part in our October challenge to walk to school. I am sure that children will be proud of their medals. Any future permanent changes to timings etc will involve you all in a consultation process.

I again refer you to the consistent message that we, 'cannot eliminate every risk but we can minimise them.' I believe the whole Cottingham community has done 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**.

Please email me, head@cottinghamprimary.co.uk with any questions and include October 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)