

Cottingham Church of England Primary School

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Friday 21st May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

May (summer 2) update

Please find below an update regarding our return to school after the summer half term. As always, any changes or continuation of routines have been made, taking advice from the DfE into account and in the best interests of keeping the Cottingham CofE community safe and well.

Attendance

Our thorough planning and risk assessing throughout the year has all taken place to allow **all** children to return to school and attend school safely. As always, if any child (or adult) is displaying the symptoms of Covid-19, they must remain at home and isolate according to the latest government information or until a test proves negative. We also continue to support and encourage participation in the 'Track and Trace.'

Currently the whole school attendance stands at 97.5% which is above the National average and our own school target. Considering the circumstances, this is so pleasing and I hope that it continues until the very last day of term. Good attendance means happy, healthy children.

Hygiene/Cleaning/PPE

As has been the case at school for over a year, 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. 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 wash their hands thoroughly before leaving the house.

A consistent and regular cleaning schedule remains in place and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. Improved cleaning certainly seems to have kept the usual sickness bugs at bay. Staff will no longer wear face coverings whilst in school unless a member of staff so wishes to do so. They will however maintain social distancing where possible. All parents/visitors, are asked to wear a face covering whilst on the school premises unless medically exempt. The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.

Uniform/PE kit/Resources

We will continue to expect all children to wear school uniform as they always do so proudly. School PE kit for all children will be required and is to be worn all day on a PE day (There are currently no changes to PE days) In preparation for September, parents/carers of children in YR-Y5 will have received an updated draft uniform policy. Please feel free to provide any feedback upon the policy by the end of term.

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Children are still asked *NOT* to bring in a rucksack/bag to school as they are not needed. Children in Ash/Willow are allowed to bring in a book bag and are encouraged to do so. Children needing personal hygiene items for example will be permitted to bring a small bag into school.

Lunch boxes/drink bottles are to be brought to school and taken home daily to be cleaned please. Hot dinners, if required, should be ordered from Kingswood caterers in the normal manner.

Learning/Curriculum

At Cottingham CofE, a broad and balanced curriculum is always offered to the children. If you follow Twitter and read the Cottingham 'Fortnightly', you will be aware of the curriculum being taught. Since our return in March there has very much been a focus upon the foundation subjects such as art, DT, PE and music. All subjects will continue to be offered next term in a full timetable. As always you will shortly receive (Via Teams) the learning planners and spellings for next term.

Due to the super attendance and the good health of the children (and staff), our remote learning planners have not had to be used again. Being in school, is allowing gaps in learning to be addressed either in class or through intervention that continues to include online 1:1 maths and a KS1 tutor for example. We are hopeful that the government will again provide tutoring funding from September. Maths homework continues to be set via My Maths and children are expected to complete the tasks set. Tapestry continues to be used in Ash/Willow class by both adults and children.

At the end of June, children will take part in a range of assessments that will be used to highlight further gaps and progress being made. The teachers will then share their end of year assessments with you in an annual report and also during parent days. Any intervention plans will then be made to begin promptly in September.

Classroom layout/Bubbles/Staggered timings

The government guidance remains for children to be taught in 'bubbles' where possible. This is the approach that we have successfully adhered to since June 1st and is well known to all of the children. As a result we will continue with the current class set ups and room layouts etc. This could well change dependent on further government announcements in June.

We will continue with our staggered start/end to the day with drop off/pick up via the current locations. We hope that we will be able to return to our 8:45/9:00 – 3:15 times from September. You will of course receive plenty of notice if that is to be the case. (Current timings below)

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WILLOW	Car Park Gate	
	Gate/register	Pick up
	8:40 - 8:50	3:05
	PE KIT – MON/FRI	

ASH	Mill Road Gate	
	Gate/register	Pick up
	8:40 – 8:50	3:05
	PE KIT: MON/FRI	

OAK	Field Gate	
	Gate/register	Pick up
	8:40 – 8:50	3:05
	PE KIT – TUES/FRI	

BEECH	Mill Road Gate	
	Gate/register	Pick up
	8:50 – 9:00	3:15
	PE KIT – TUES/WEDS	

HAWTHORN	Field Gate	
	Gate/register	Pick up
	08:50 – 9:00	3:15
	PE KIT – WEDS/THURS	

Breaks/lunchtimes will continue to be organised on a rota basis. This will continue to allow all children to get full use of the different areas of the playground including the new 'Smooga' Arena. Timings also give the children sufficient time to eat and chat with their friends either in the class or hall.

I am sure that you understand our wishes to remain cautious, especially with the news of the new Covid variant. I will continue to **ENGAGE – CONSULT – DISCUSS** with you all in a timely manner. The Academy Governance Committee (AGC) would like to seek your views upon the recent lockdown/remote teaching etc. If you haven't already done so please do complete the short survey - <https://forms.office.com/r/zhdn9PsWpJ> - Your views and feedback will be very much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all next term at one of the many events that we have planned whether it be at sports days, dance/music shows or at the school gate. Please do keep an eye on changes to the fridge dates etc! I have missed you all so much. Please stay alert and stay safe!

Yours faithfully,

Ashley Scott (Headteacher)