

Cottingham Church of England Primary School

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Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

March 8th Update

Please find below further details regarding the long awaited return to school for **all** pupils from Monday 8th March. We will be following the latest government guidance, allowing full attendance for **all** children. We will also be supporting the re-opening of both before and after school provision to those children whose parents meet the criteria in order for them to attend.

Although the public health picture is improving, it remains crucial that we continue to take the necessary steps to reduce and mitigate any risks within our school. We will continue to risk assess and refresh the system of controls to reduce the risk of transmission at Cottingham CofE Primary School. I would ask that you all adhere to and continue to follow both our and government rules and procedures as you have done so in the past.

For Monday, we have carefully planned our return to school with the well-being and happiness of the children at the forefront of our thinking. During the w/b 8th March, both Literacy and Maths books will be kept away from the children. Instead they will have the opportunity to take part in active sessions including relaxing mindfulness and PE as well as meeting their friends again. Teachers will ensure that art, reading, PSHE and collective worship are of great importance. The w/b 15th March will become slightly more formal with Literacy and Maths books returning to desks along with those of other subjects. During w/b 22nd March, various assessments will be carried out that will ensure planning for the summer term is bespoke to the needs of the children. It will then be time to break up for the Easter holidays. (*INSET day on Friday 26th March*)

The information provided below is similar to what was provided for our return to school after the summer holidays. Please do read carefully as there will have been some slight tweaks here and there.

Attendance

Our revised planning and risk assessing has all taken place to allow **all** children to return to school safely from Monday March 8th. It is expected that your child will return unless they have a valid reason for not doing so. 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 would also support and encourage full participation in the 'Track and Trace.'

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.

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The staff and I will work and support you all to ensure that each and every child is in school where they should be and no doubt want to be.

Well-being/Safeguarding

Upon our return, the staff and I will have the full support of our trust (PDET) and the Diocese. We will seek any support that you require so please do come to us for support/help if needed. The Cottingham CofE community will again shine and be there for one another. We will be there to **CARE - BUILD - FOLLOW** and **THINK**. As always, we must ensure that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. I continue to be the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), supported by Mrs Crainie and Mrs Wilson as my deputies (DDSL). We should all remember that our children will welcome a return to routine (as will the staff and parents).

Hygiene/Cleaning/PPE

We continue to be more mindful of our own self-hygiene than ever before. As has been the case at school since March 2020, 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 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. The Government guidance is that staff do not need to wear PPE unless they are carrying out intimate care or cannot maintain social distancing for example. It has been decided amongst the staff, that face coverings **will** be worn throughout the day including at drop off/collection. All parents/visitors, are to wear a face covering at these times please unless medically exempt. Children do not and will not be expected to wear any form of PPE.

Uniform/PE kit/Resources

We will continue to expect all children to wear school uniform. Children will be expected to wear black school shoes as per our usual policy. *I am however, very mindful to everyone's circumstances with regards to purchasing uniform being an issue for a number of reasons. All I ask is that everyone does their best under the current circumstances and that the children are prepared for their learning.* School PE kit for all children will be required and is to be worn all day on a PE day (See tables below). As always, please, please ensure that every item of uniform is clearly marked. I am looking forward to seeing the very much missed usual sea of red returning through the school gates.

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As I have mentioned before, we do lack space. As a result, children are *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

I endorse the Government guidance that **all** children are to return from March 8th and be taught a broad and balanced curriculum. To adhere to the current advice, all subjects, will be taught (if safe to do so).

As you well know, the staff have been sending home our very own adapted version of remote learning as well as providing 'live' sessions. From your feedback, our approach has continued to be well received with some IT issues along the way. Staff will not be providing these from Monday unless to children who are shielding for Covid-19 reasons. Maths homework will be set via My Maths and children are expected to complete the tasks set. Each teacher will keep a record of homework completion. Teams will continue to be used as a location to upload class work and other information that the children can access. Tapestry will continue to be used in Ash/Willow class.

Classroom layout/Bubbles/Staggered timings

The government guidance remains for children to be taught in 'bubbles.' This is the approach that we have successfully adhered to since June 1st and is well known to all of the children.

EYFS/KS1 - Children in Ash and Willow class will continue to be considered as one 'bubble.' As per our registers, the children will begin and end each day in their own class whether that be Ash or Willow. The children will have a consistent 'bubble' of adults to include Mrs Delo/Mrs McPhie (Willow) and Mrs Wilson/Mrs Ferguson (Ash). To allow for our plans for continuous provision, children will be able to access learning in both spaces as well as the outdoor environment that is currently undergoing a makeover.

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

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

KS2 – Children will be taught mainly in their own class 'bubbles,' as per the normal pattern, and will have a consistent 'bubble' of adults to include Miss Hurn/Mrs Baker (Oak), Mrs Lloyd/Mrs Jones (Beech) and Mrs Wason/Miss Patterson (Hawthorn). Again, other staff (Mrs George, Mrs Crainie and Mr Stafford) can work across 'bubbles,' following a consistent and planned timetable.

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

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 – MON/WEDS	

The 'bubbles,' arranged in this way will also continue to allow the children to enjoy regular breaks/lunchtimes, organised on a rota basis, with the appropriate number of staff supporting them for example. It will be important that children are at school and on time for register. **Any changes to PE days for example, will be communicated to you.**

I once again refer you to the message that we, '**cannot eliminate every risk but we can minimise them.**' Any plan that is put into place remains subject to change at any time. Any changes made will again be done so in the interests of health and safety and via our normal channels of communication to now include Teams.

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 March 8th in the subject field. **You will already be aware that we are a NUT FREE school. We also now become a NUT/KIWI FREE school. Thank you for your support.**

I look forward to seeing you all next week. I have missed you all. Please stay alert and stay safe!

Yours faithfully,

Ashley Scott (Headteacher)