

Cringleford CE VA Primary School

Autumn Term 2020-2021

Newsletter 5



9th October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am very aware that the school seems to be sending out information on a far more regular basis than previously, but the ever-changing situation we are all currently facing means that we need to keep you updated more frequently.

Microsoft Teams & assignments

Thank you to all the parents / carers who have supported their children (Years 2-6) to access Microsoft Teams and complete a simple assignment. It would be really helpful if everyone could have a go at doing this as it will enable us to find out who is having difficulties accessing Teams. We have extended the deadline for that assignment. Some teachers will also be using Teams to send out homework assignments so the children become increasingly familiar with the platform.

The use of teams is solely educational and will be used to support remote education as and when the need arises. Some children have been using the 'post' option to send messages to classmates. All the teachers will be telling the child to only use the 'post' option if they are told to do so as part of a learning task.

Parent/Teacher meetings & questionnaire

Arrangements for parent / teacher meetings will have to be run differently this year. The school is buying into an online booking system so that parents / carers will be able to look at each teacher's available time slots and book a ten-minute video call appointment. Further details will be sent out shortly.

Ten minutes is never very long for an appointment and this year a lot of pupils were off school for a long period of time. We are all missing those daily or weekly opportunities to touch base with parents / carers at the start and end of the school day and we have not been able to hold our normal curriculum meetings. For these reasons, I am proposing that parents / carers are given an opportunity (optional) to complete a questionnaire which can be sent back for teachers to read prior to the video calls.

The main purpose of the questionnaire will be for you to let us know, from your perspective, how your child got on generally during the time away from school and how he or she has settled into school routines. You will also be given the opportunity to let us know if your child had any particular anxieties during lockdown and if they have any current concerns. This information, alongside anything else you think it would be important for us to know, will help provide a focus for the meetings.

Parent / teacher slots for parents of pupils in Year 1 – 6 will be made available for the week beginning October 19th (including the morning of the Inset Day on October 22nd) and the week beginning November 2nd. Reception parent / teacher slots will be arranged for slightly later after the half term holiday. We will send out details of the new booking system shortly. The questionnaire will be sent out on Friday October 9th and should be returned by Thursday October 15th.

Unfortunately, all schools are having to consider how they would cope in case of a class or year group self-isolating at any point and how we would send out remote learning tasks. We know we would have to combine remote learning with sending out some packs of work and we want to be able to react as quickly as possible if some pupils had to spend time at home.

The second half of the survey will allow us to ascertain what technology you have at home for your child(ren) to have access to. In the event of another national or area lockdown, or if your child's bubble is closed due to a positive case of Covid-19, we need to be able to supply your child with home learning. As this learning will mostly be completed online, we need to know if your child will be able to access this or if we would need to make alternative arrangements for them.

The questionnaire link is : [Parents' Evening & IT survey](#)

WisePay Update – Data Security Incident

You may be aware that the WisePay website was unavailable earlier this week. We now understand that the reason for this outage was in response to a data security incident experienced by WisePay.

WisePay has confirmed that, during the time period in question (at some point around the 2nd October 2020), individuals from this school either didn't attempt to make payments to the school or, if they did, they utilised an unaffected payment gateway.

We would like to reassure parents that WisePay confirm that they have implemented additional security measures designed to prevent a recurrence of such an event.

WisePay recommends a number of steps you can take, as a precautionary measure, to protect your information. *"...we would still recommend that you are especially cautious regarding your personal financial arrangements and take prompt steps to pause or cancel the payment card you have used on our site. We also recommend you take additional precautionary steps to change passwords or login details for your bank accounts and credit cards".*

In the event of a positive Covid-19 test result in school

In the unfortunate event that there was a positive test result for a pupil or member of staff, the school would phone Norfolk's Public Health Department school helpline to get advice about which pupil groups should self-isolate.

The school could receive notification of a positive case affecting the school at any point and parents / carers should be prepared for this eventuality. The school office would send out an email / text via Pupil Asset attaching one of two letters. This could happen at any time, including the weekend.

One letter would be sent to the parents / carers of children who have been identified as being close contacts and informing them that their child should self-isolate for up to 14 days. It would not be necessary for your child to get a Coronavirus test unless he / she developed symptoms during the self-isolation period. A draft copy of this letter can be found on the school website under the 'Parents' tab and clicking Covid-19 information.

A different letter would be sent out to all the other parents / carers in the school to inform them that the school had been advised of a confirmed case of Covid-19 within the setting, but that the setting remained open to their child(ren) and that their child(ren) should continue to attend as normal.

Please bear in mind the fact that if you have children in different classes you might receive multiple letters. If we received information about a positive test during the school day, parents / carers of affected bubbles would be asked to collect children as soon as possible.

Both letters contain the same sentence: ***please be reassured that, for most people, Coronavirus (Covid-19) will be a mild illness.***

Reception plea

Thank you so much for the generous donations of small world figurines.

Reception are exploring pets and looking after animals and would love any donations of pet bowls, cat scratching posts, small dog leads, animal cages, bowls, clean/safe food packaging, a clean animal hutch or

plastic fish bowls. Please leave any donations on the table outside the office. Thank you, again, for your ongoing support - from the Reception teachers.

Other reminders

- Shoe laces – please make sure the children can put shoes on independently as adults should not be too close to the pupils.
- Packed lunches still need to contain no nut products as some child have severe nut allergies.
- Please don't send in your child if they are feeling at all unwell - please notify the office if they will NOT be attending school. You can always refer to the 'Covid-19 symptom checker' poster which we uploaded to the website (under the Notice Board section on the front page of the website).
- Long hair should be tied back at all times please.
- Please make sure you are on time for drop off and pick up times. If you or your child arrives late you will need to stand outside the office and ring for assistance – 01603 454946.
- All children should have a waterproof coat or jacket with them every day.
- Please do not try to contact anyone in the office via the window. If you ring the school office on 01630 454946 someone will deal with your request.

Finally, we continue to be really pleased about how the children have settled in this term and we look forward to parent / teacher conversations in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

N. Henery

Headteacher