

Cringleford CE VA Primary School

Autumn Term 2020-2021



Newsletter 8

4th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I really hope you were able to spend some quality time together as a family over the half term holiday. The news of the new lockdown was probably inevitable and is likely to mean that we all face some tough weeks ahead. It is important to be able to have some breaks from our 'normal' routines and find ways to get out into the fresh air and continue with exercise, particularly at weekends.

From the start of this term my message to staff has been to try to take each day as it comes. The news at the moment can sometimes seem overwhelmingly depressing, but I want to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to maintain a happy and productive atmosphere in school.

There is a lot of great learning going on in school and it was lovely to see all the Year 1 children dressed up as Julia Donaldson book characters and the Year 6 pupils enjoying their 'Evacuee Experience' day earlier this week. We will try to make sure that photos of special curriculum events are shared with you on the website or via email.

It has been good to see that so many parents / carers booked video calls with their child's class teacher this week.

Lessons learned from our first positive test result in the setting

As you will know, the school had to send out letters in the holiday about a positive coronavirus test affecting the school setting. I am really pleased to let you know that the small minority of those who had to self-isolate are now back in school. It is important to review how we managed the situation. One or two points are worth sharing:

We will continue to use the Local Authority template letters informing you of any further positive test results. Please bear in mind that the letter only states that there has been a case 'in the setting.' We are unlikely to give further details about which class, year group or Key Stage has been affected.

Schools are given extensive advice from Public Health England and Norfolk's Outbreak Management service to help them work out who should self-isolate. Due to the timing and circumstances of our recent situation, this meant that a whole bubble did not have to self-isolate. This may well not be the case in the future.

If your child has to self-isolate, some home learning has been uploaded onto the Class Blogs to cover the first day. After that, depending on whether an individual, a small group or a whole bubble has to self-isolate, teachers will provide more detailed remote learning from Day 2 onwards.

Virtual fireworks display

The following message is from Helen Williamson, the Cringleford Scout Leader.

Sadly Cringleford Scout Group will not be able to hold our usual fireworks display this year due to current circumstances. But have no fear, we are going to hold an online event instead.

We have put some recipes and how-to videos on our website to help you prepare for the big night and there will be a live streamed fireworks broadcast with music from City of Norwich Pipe Band on Friday 6 November at 7pm.

Everything is free of charge but we will be accepting donations if you would like to make a contribution to help keep our group going.

For more information, please visit our website cringlefordscouts.org.uk

Attached is a poster for the event.

Poppies for sale

The school has always supported the British Legion's poppy appeal. Although it is not practical to sell the poppies to the children in school this year, we will be putting a table outside the main office at the beginning and end of the school day this Friday 6th November.

Either after drop off in the morning or before you collect your child in the afternoon, adults can make a donation and collect an item of choice on a first come first served basis, from the table: poppies, wrist bands, pencils etc to take home,. We hope that this was we can still support this excellent cause.

Children in Need

Next week the children will be doing some Children in Need activities during the week. This year's theme is a pertinent one – supporting children's mental health. On Friday November 13th the children are allowed to come into school in non-school uniform. All children can participate, whether or not a donation is made, but we are asking you to consider a £1 donation. We will put some buckets in key positions on that day in the car parks for this purpose.

Car parking

As the nights draw in and the weather gets colder, please make every effort to park sensibly around the school. Please consider whether you need to drive at all and if you can park a bit further away from the school and walk from there. The Willow Centre car park can be used. Some parents have pointed out that some people park on the dropped kerb and still park on the yellow zig-zag lines. It has also been pointed out to me that there is a small dropped kerb just near the zig-zag lines close to the staff car park. This enables those with pushchairs to cross the road safely. Please try to avoid blocking this.

You may well have noticed that the Parish Council has put up some 20 m.p.h. speed notices. Please make sure you adhere to this limit for the safety of the whole school community. There are plans for some sort of speed cameras / warning lights to be put up in the near future.

Christmas card competition

For the last few years we have supported Smith and Pinching's Christmas card competition. An entry form is attached if your child would like to take part. Completed entries can be deposited in the plastic box outside the main school office from Monday 9th November.

Assembly themes

This half term's assembly themes are 'Words of Jesus' and Advent / Christmas. We will also have anti-bullying and Remembrance assemblies over the next couple of weeks.

Lockdown

The Department for Education sent an email to schools to say that further guidance for schools would be issued very shortly, so it might mean that I will have to send something out shortly about any changes that schools are expected to put in place. In the meantime, we are doing all we can to keep the children safe, but also make learning fun and engaging.

One change I think we should make is to **encourage all adults to wear face coverings** whilst on the school premises for the drop off and pick up times. Despite our staggered timings and the fact that we are outside, there are still a lot of people around at those times and it can be harder to maintain social distancing. Staff have been asked to wear face coverings from tomorrow when they come outside.

Please try to support your child to bring in everything he or she might need for the day. We have an increase in the number of items brought in to the office to pass down to classes. Items should be left on the table outside and will be given to staff at break time or lunchtime.

I am sure the next few weeks will be challenging for us all and I hope you keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

N. Henery

Headteacher

