



Cringleford CE VA Primary School

Autumn Term 2020-2021

Newsletter 11

30th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you all had a good weekend. You may already be aware that several local schools have been affected by closures of class or year group bubbles and that some schools have had to keep some year groups at home due to staff absences. I am really pleased to say that this has not been the case at our school up to now. We have only had one positive case in the setting so far, which resulted in a small group of pupils having to self-isolate for some days over the half term holiday. However, we know of several families where children have had to be tested.

Although we have not had any reported positive cases, things could change quickly. Over the last two weeks four members of staff have had to stay at home or leave school during the day to look after a child who has been sent home from another school. We need to remain vigilant, especially with some restrictions being removed mid-week. I also want you to understand that the school might have to make compromises in order to keep as many children in school as possible for as long as possible. This might mean classes being taught by supply teachers or supervised by support staff while a member of staff plans lessons or teaches the whole class remotely from home. Hopefully, these would be short term arrangements, but we are having to plan for various contingencies. I genuinely believe the current situation is very fragile to say the least.

If we did have another positive case in the setting, we would follow all the advice from Public Health England and the Norfolk Outbreak Management team. This might well mean a whole year group bubble having to self-isolate and follow remote learning plans. For the first day of any home learning, please look on the school website, click the green tab link for 'Home learning', then on the Year Group Home Learning link to find the work from each year group. As soon as a bubble has to self-isolate, teachers would send out details of home learning from Day 2 onwards.

How can you help?

Please continue to consistently wear face coverings at drop off and pick up times (understanding that a few people are not able to do so for medical reasons).

- Try to avoid any conversations or huddles on the pathways around school.
- We are working hard to keep classes and year groups separate during the school day. If children mix freely before or after school, the notification of a positive case might mean that more children have to self-isolate than should be necessary. We have asked that those older children who go home independently after school do so straight away, rather than socializing with others.
- Please make sure your child is suitably dressed for school and always has a waterproof coat / jacket. Extra layers are important, too, as we need to have well-ventilated classrooms which results in lower temperatures in school.

Charity collection

In a recent newsletter I mentioned that the school has been asked to support a local charity for the homeless. ANON Street Team comprises of around 70 volunteers who feed the homeless and vulnerable outside City Hall in Norwich on a Sunday evening throughout the year. This year the charity will be organising a Christmas dinner on December 13th and distributing some parcels. This is where your help is needed. I had previously given out this list of things that would be really useful items to go into the parcels:

- Underwear for males / females
- Socks for females
- Toiletries for males / females
- Woollen hats for males / females
- Hand sanitiser bottles and face masks

In addition, some food items would also be very welcome for the Christmas dinner: mince pies, cake slices, sweets, chocolate buttons etc. It would be really good if we could gather a large number of items and we will be collecting from Wednesday 2nd – Monday 7th December. There will be a pedal bin container just outside the office at drop off and pick up times for any donated items. I have talked to the children about the collection in today's assembly. There should also be a piece about how the school hopes to support the Christmas meal on Radio Norfolk tomorrow (Sam Day's show at 4.30 p.m.). For your information, ANON has also been making up hampers for families in need, donating food to Wymondham Football Club for half term family meals and recently fed the Band of Builders for a week in Cringleford whilst working on a charity building project.

Cringleford Hub

Please find attached a leaflet explaining about Christmas events going on around Cringleford.

PTA fundraising message

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic we have been unable to hold any of our usual fundraising events in 2020. In 2018/2019 we raised over £13,000 for the school but the impact of coronavirus means that the school, and our children, are missing out on valuable funds.

We are only too aware that this year has hit many families hard but there is an easy way you can support the PTA to raise funds. This year, while you're Christmas shopping online, if you go to your favourite retailer via Easy Fundraising (Amazon, John Lewis, eBay, Argos and many others), they will donate a percentage of what you spend to the PTA. It's really easy to do and very easy to sign up, just visit:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cringlefordschoolpta/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=cpl

You can also find this link on the welcome page of the school website.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The PTA Committee

Christmas cards

We know the children really enjoy bringing in Christmas cards, but this year all the restrictions mean that we have to do things differently. Your child can either choose to bring in a card for the whole class, which will be displayed on a board for everyone to see, or send in a Christmas greeting to the class via Padlet. Class teachers will let the children know how the Padlet system would work.

Presents

We have had some parents / carers very kindly asking whether members of staff will be able to accept Christmas gifts. I think that there has been so much financial pressure on families (as well as the restrictions about bringing things into school) that it seems sensible not to do so this year, but for families to wait until the end of the academic year if they want to show their appreciation this way. I know that most teachers really do appreciate the comments that come in cards and any Christmas messages or thanks could be sent via the class email addresses.

Christmas jumpers

Christmas lunch will be on December 15th. The children will be able to wear a jumper of their choice that day. This could be a Christmas jumper but does not have to be.

Santa Dash

The Norwich Schools Sport Partnership (NSSP) is encouraging member schools to take part in a Santa Dash (a run which takes place at staggered times during the school day). We will be doing this on December 11th, so please ask your child to come to school in PE kit that day and have a change of footwear. If anyone has a Santa hat, this will add to the occasion. The school will take some photos to send to the NSSP after the event.

Norfolk Winter Support Package

An initial package of support will be announced shortly to help Norfolk residents over the winter. Norfolk County Council is developing or expanding at least three schemes to run over the colder months:

- a free school meals scheme for the holidays;
- a winter hardship scheme run through the Norfolk Community Foundation,
- the extension of the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which provides food, clothes and equipment to those who need it.

Support over the Christmas holiday for pupils eligible for free school meals

Norfolk County Council is working with food voucher company, Edenred, to provide support for all families with children eligible for free school meals, including children in the early years who receive pupil premium.

Schools have been asked to make sure eligible families register and apply for free school meals and the council is also raising awareness about the free school meals scheme via a targeted 'Free school meals' Facebook campaign. Eligibility criteria and a link to how to apply can be found via the link below. By signing up to the programme, families will have automatic eligibility to the holiday food voucher schemes that are being planned for the Christmas holidays. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

Anyone will be able to ask for support as part of the overall package of schemes, but the free school meal vouchers will only be available to those who are eligible and have registered.

Families in hardship and needing wider support

There is also support available for families who are facing hardship and need support now. For information on how to access support please go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus or ring 0344 800 8020. Anyone experiencing hardship can also receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which already provides support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. The easiest way to get in touch is to visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS or if families cannot access the internet, they can call 01603 223392 (option 5). If the line is busy, you can leave a message and the team will call you back.

Yours sincerely,

N. Henery

Headteacher

