

Cringleford CE VA Primary School

Spring Term 2020-2021

Newsletter 16

13th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Normally, I would send out a newsletter at the end of a week, but things were so hectic last week that this was not possible. I don't think any of us would have imagined all the changes and adaptations we had to make over such a short timescale. I know daily life for you would have been very challenging and would like to thank you for your patience as we got to grips with new home learning programmes and coming to terms with Tapestry and Teams. I know all our staff have worked incredibly hard to get things up and running, but we are very much at the start of a process and we are always looking to share ideas between ourselves and learn from good practice elsewhere.

What is impossible is meeting everyone's expectations as home circumstances vary so considerably. We have tried to provide a mix of recorded sessions, live Zoom or Teams meetings and also refer to booklets etc so that families are not all trying to use devices at the same time and families have flexibility about when to tackle work that has been set. Please remember that staff members are also learners and we are quickly having to become proficient and deal with some of the same problems you are facing: internet crashes, poor connections etc. Some schools had a head start with remote learning due to whole school or year group bubbles having to self-isolate during the autumn term. Fortunately, we did not have that issue, but it does mean some of us faced a steeper learning curve than others. Some children might struggle to get all the tasks completed. If you need to, please concentrate on the English and Maths tasks first.

We are reminding pupils about the Microsoft Teams agreement discussed in the autumn term. A copy of this can be found in the 'Home learning support' section of the website. Children should only be communicating via Teams if instructed to do so by staff.

Currently, we are posting work on the school website. I had mentioned that all work would be posted up by 5 p.m. the night before, but this is going to now be extended to 7 p.m. For some year groups the work will soon be sent out via Teams, but we will give you advanced warning of the change. Teachers will be making reference to the set of books sent out last term in case of lockdown. Please make sure that your child always has these available. We are not able to purchase additional copies.

Moving forward, we are hoping to sign up pupils in several year groups to an online reading portal (Rising Stars) whereby they will have access to texts and comprehension work. Further details will follow in due course.

Thank you for all the supportive messages last week – it really made a difference.

Unfortunately, one of our key worker bubbles is having to self-isolate at present due to a positive case among the school community. This has highlighted, once again, the need for as many children who can

stay at home to do so. We know that a lot of our parents / carers are carrying out critical work and cannot keep their child(ren) at home. You will have probably read in the media about some schools having large numbers of pupils still in school and this, of course, presents the risk of infections spreading. The latest DfE advice about who should attend schools is as follows:

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers who can attend school

*Schools should remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a [critical workers](#) can go to school if required. This includes parents who may be working from home. **The guidance sets out that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.***

Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school. If it proves necessary, schools can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip.

We know that every school will have a different number of children of critical workers who need to attend. It is important that on-site provision is provided for these pupils.

Places in school

We are in the process of looking at all the returned survey results for requests for school places and are likely to have to limit numbers by applying a priority list. This might be relaxed according to the national picture, but we also want to release some staff members to be able to concentrate more on the remote learning offer for everyone. The key worker / vulnerable pupil bubbles might need to be placed in one year group bubble and will not necessarily be taught by their child's class teacher. At the moment the teachers and support staff are supporting the children in school with the remote learning programme and then coming out of class to plan for the remote learning or lead Zoom / Teams sessions. Every school is having to respond to this situation based on each school's unique context. What is right for a school down the road might not be the best solution for us.

What I have learned over the past year is that things can change very quickly, sometimes from one day to the next. Bubble sizes and numbers of places available might have to be adjusted with very short notice depending on things like bubbles closing, staff absence and government and DfE announcements.

Devices

Remote learning is heavily dependent on the availability of laptops and devices. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey sent out before this lockdown letting us know which devices you have at home. Now that a bubble has had to close due to the positive test, the DfE is in a position to send out some additional devices (we have been allocated 16 laptops). A local charity is also hoping to support us. When these devices arrive, we will do our best to support those families most in need.

The Local Authority also sent out this information to help families to be able to get devices:

The Norfolk Assistance Scheme can help fund equipment for low income families which could include (but not exclusively):

- ***Laptops***
- ***Access to wifi***
- ***Broadband dongles***

Information regarding how to access the scheme can be found on the **attached** postcard. If you need any assistance with completing an application I am able to help with this.

Kind regards,

Molly Bruton on behalf of Katie Marsden, Community Focus Officer (South Norfolk)

Molly Bruton, Business Support Officer

Communities & Partnerships (South)

Children's Services, Independent Statutory Services

Tel: 01603 217759 | Dept: 01603 222814

South Norfolk Council, South Norfolk House, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2XE

I have attached a leaflet with further information.

Of course, most devices that are connected to the internet, such as Smart tvs and consoles, can also be used to access Teams. Please see information below for help in accessing Teams on a PS4 and X-Box.

Xbox - <https://youtu.be/rWTwAfLKbkU>

PS4 - <https://youtu.be/mHTHaXhccDE>

Positive Covid tests

From our own experience, and hearing from PHE representatives recently, it seems that the symptoms of the new strain of Covid can be quite mild e.g a temperature lasting only a few hours, general lethargy and runny noses. For those children coming into school, it is worth taking extra precautions and making sure that you only send children in if they are feeling fully well. Obviously, vigilance is needed in home settings, too.

Cleaner – bank staff

If you are interested in a bank cleaning vacancy, please visit this link on our school website. [Cleaner - Bank staff | Educator Solutions \(educationjobfinder.org.uk\)](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

N. Henery

Neil Henery

Headteacher