



Virus bulletin 1. Update for families

18.3.2020

Summary:

Schools close from Friday this week. They remain open to vulnerable pupils and children of 'key worker' roles including health care workers.

Thanks to everyone for their support including parents, children, staff and governors.

Reassurances about priorities of safety before learning throughout school.

Home learning arrangements listed and details relating to them.

- Seesaw
- IDL
- TT Rock Stars
- Y5 and Y6 google classroom
- Mindfulness
- Timetables
- Access to technology

Dear families,

At CVPS over the past week we have been so appreciative of the support and understanding shown by families of the actions and decisions that have been taken to follow recommendations from government and the Health Protection Agency.

School Closure

We are aware that the Prime Minister has just announced that schools will close from 5pm nationally on Friday 20th March. Our school will close at 2pm as usual on Friday this week. We will continue to provide the practice opportunity to families who have notified us on Facebook that they are choosing to take part in the remote learning trial that is in place.

Details are being announced as I type so I will put more detail about how we intend to follow advice by allowing children of key worker roles to continue to attend school. This will involve identifying people who qualify for this role which we will confirm with you tomorrow afternoon.

Firstly Thanks!

We have valued the encouragement and significant support that has been demonstrated to the CVPS team at a time we know has been challenging for everyone. This is indeed an unprecedented time nationally and so as information changes by the hour we have had to not only keep abreast of the new information, but also make well-informed decisions about how we continue to safeguard children and staff at school. This has been our priority throughout the development of the Coronavirus over past weeks, and I can't begin to thank school staff enough for the excellent efforts they have put in place to support and monitor handwashing not to mention the deep cleaning that our facilities team has done. Throughout we have been mindful of giving enough information for children to keep themselves safe without creating unnecessary anxieties and maintaining normality as much as possible.

To reassure you we are progressing well towards having a robust offer in place if we need to close school and we should have these systems fully operational and trialled by the end of Friday (20th March). We anticipate, from looking at other countries, that the school closure will be for a prolonged period of time (months rather than weeks) when it does happen, so our priorities have been to manage our day to day offer to those children in school (in terms of both safety and learning) alongside creating a robust long term

offer, with appropriate home learning online and appropriate resources both electronic and practical, to be able to help children complete the set tasks at home in weeks to come.

Home Learning

We have designed a package of learning that pupils will be able to access and the test on Friday 20th March at 1-2pm is to allow them all to log on and trial the planned learning as soon as practically possible. Please add onto the facebook posts we create on Friday, how your child has managed. We want to get your feedback so we can help the children with the practical aspects of logging on and connecting with the learning.

If you or your child is ill, we do not expect these tasks to be done. If your teacher is not well, you will be asked to complete IDL activities for a specified time slot during the day. Please be patient. The staff team are passionate about supporting all our children with their learning - but this is new for all of us. While we are doing our utmost to protect learning in school we also recognise that at times there may be issues which make it difficult both from your perspective and from ours.

Seesaw

We are delighted that we can now say that **ALL** children from Y1 to Y6 now have access codes for Seesaw - this will be the preferred options for teachers to use for their learning. Teachers can teach through their slides as they would if pupils were in class - but please remember that the nuances of teaching support individual children to access will not be available. The slides we deliver in our daily teaching don't always match what the children need. Consequently, if we are taking your children onto new concepts or ideas, sometimes the stretch we ask may take them out of their comfort zones. Teachers usually adapt and change their planned slides daily to be able to accommodate how children respond to the planned learning. This will be harder for us to gauge when we can't see the children's responses to the slides.

IDL

They will also have IDL log on codes for English and Mathematics. IDL can be used at any point in time or as directed by the children. Once pupils completed their first test, the system allocates them an endless number of differentiated tasks that they can work on.

If class teachers are ill and we have not had capacity to redirect other staff to prepare teaching slides for lessons, then you are able to use IDL. It may also be asked as the preferred method if your class teachers are completing planning for the following week.

TT Rock Stars

This allows pupils to practise the all-important times tables from Y2-Y6. The system is already in use and pupils have been familiar with the process. Please inform your class teacher about any technology glitches so they can try to support you.

Reading at home

We will be sending home a limited number of reading books for the children and while we know that they are likely to run out very quickly we will do our best to upload stories being read as well as guided reading material and phonics material.

Timetables

We agree with some parents who have requested a timetable that routines at home will really support your children to behave better and to have consistent expectations of what they can expect on a daily basis. For this reason I have posted an outline timetable for the classes below. Each individual class may have slightly different suggestions. But if your children are healthy enough we would advise sticking to a routine as much as possible. In school we have non negotiables such as phonics/reading daily, literacy and numeracy daily. Breaktimes, lunchtimes, snacks, reflection times in assemblies. If you stick to the usual routine at home, it will help children to understand the consistent expectations.

That said - this is a time of national crisis and so we fully understand if for some periods of time you are unable to do the work set. **There will be no pressure on any child from school, to complete their work, unless you ask for us to exert pressure on them.** No child will receive reprimands from school unless you feel they need it. You are with the children each day and are the best judges of what efforts they are making and what they can manage.

Mindfulness and Well-being

Our Thrive programme will continue to be available for those who use it, and they will receive some ideas on their Seesaw programme on what activities to do. Well-being activities will be offered to support pupils, and there will be 'thoughts for the day' or stories that we will offer with messages.

Technology

All classes in Y3- Y6 have informed us of their technology situation. Our business management team have worked hard to set up a very small range of devices that would be available to take home from school. Please let the staff know if your circumstances change and you are left without the devices you said you have had to date.

Any school devices which are used away from school are subject to the school's Acceptable Use Policy which can come with legal implications if not followed correctly. Safeguards and appropriate filters have been applied but we ask that families protect these devices carefully.

Communication with staff

We appreciate that for many families this will be a very challenging time, not only in terms of sustaining children's learning and keeping them occupied. Also we have been told that the country is susceptible to the 'premature loss of loved ones.' We are hugely aware of this - as we all have vulnerable people in our families so we do ask that as far as possible you respect the response rates that our staff give to you. We will continue to be working whether from the school building (if allowed) or from home between the usual hours of 8-4 and during those hours staff may be able to contact you using the school's usual routes.

Please be mindful that staff cannot respond to queries outside of the usual hours. Some may choose to do so if it fits with their personal working life or work patterns, but we need to reinforce that their availability outside of working hours is entirely up to them to consider.

Free School Meals

We aim for pupils who are entitled to free school meals to be able to continue to have the typical school menu in 'takeaway bags'. You will be able to collect a bag for eligible children from the school kitchen door from 11.30 the day after we close. Please be aware that if you are self isolating you will need to ask a friend who isn't to collect it and drop it off on your doorstep.

I'll continue to update everyone as and when we can in the coming days. We will be ready to have our remote learning from Monday 23rd March next week.

I would like to wish all of you a safe few weeks as we are all apart. We will be thinking carefully about the ways we communicate in the coming weeks and ensuring that we do as much as we safely can as a staff team to keep you sane while you and your children are at home! Thank you so much again for the support that you have shown to everyone in recent days. We really appreciate it and we are really looking forward to seeing everyone when we can open again.

Kind regards and best wishes to you all

Debbie Wylie

