



Virus bulletin 5. Update for families

27.4.2020

Summary:

- Sustaining during lockdown - and congratulations
- Plans for next week's home learning
- E-safety and safeguarding feedback on class facebook
- Social distancing in school including planned residential
- Critical worker and vulnerable children status

Dear families,

Our weekly bulletin is to update you and keep you informed of 'life in lockdown' from a CVPS perspective. Slightly different to newsletters (which has many photos of the lovely things that usually take place), the bulletin tries to state factual changes as much as possible to keep families well informed of our current status as a school.

Congratulations

We are very appreciative of the continuous support that families are offering our children with the online learning and we absolutely value that engagement and involvement from all concerned. The number of activities on Seesaw is staggering - and the quality of feedback from the children makes all the extra time and effort that goes into the activities so worthwhile. The new online routines and a regular timetable will support your children to be able to have more of a sense of normality and in the sixth week of lockdown this is important, for their mental health and well being.

Safeguarding

We have a routine approach to supporting the safeguarding of the children through monitoring their engagement levels in activities, and if they miss two full days of non engagement then we are contacting families in the usual way to be able to let them know we are thinking about them. These contacts are an opportunity to check you are ok, offering IT help if you're struggling, or even if you just need a bit of a chat on how to support the children to stay motivated. Please don't hesitate to message via facebook or email (on the info account on info@villageprimary.org) if you feel your child would benefit from a conversation about their work.

A reminder that the police sent through to us some additional guidance for online safety that they offer - which was uploaded to the class facebook pages. The preferred mode of communication is through these pages - but important communications are also shared on the standard email lists as well.

Our approach to family support

We fully understand that families have wide reaching pressures on them, from serving extended family's needs, with shopping and doorstep deliveries, anxieties about loved ones, as well as financial worries and working at home alongside home schooling! Please don't hesitate to communicate with your class teachers if you need to. And as always we are aware that the online learning will be too much for some, too little for others and as such, just the same as homework will be a source of anxiety. We are all doing our best and just ask that the children do the same. Again - if your child is lacking in motivation please let us know so we can contact them.

Social distancing and forthcoming residential

Like everyone at the moment, we are very conscious of the national situation with regard to keeping the children and staff safe when they are at school. We are implementing government's social distancing guidelines, as well as the recommended guidance and hygiene adaptations with regard to handwashing recommendations and lunch arrangements.

With regard to planning for the future we know that social distancing and keeping everyone safe will mean that **as and when** schools are given the green light to widen their reach for pupils, there will be necessary changes. We do not know what this will look like yet, but it is likely that it could mean half day timetables for children, and adaptations to

the timetable to minimise close contact between pupils as well as pupils and staff. Please do not assume that there will be a return to the same as before - it's been made clear that it won't.

All pupils and their families in year 4 (Robinwood) and year 5 (London) will have questions about the likelihood and safe practices involved in continuing the residential planned. All planned trips that we have promoted in the past have prioritised safety for children with a common sense approach, thorough risk assessments which balance the characters due to attend with the expertise and experience of staff. Any risks have been considered alongside the huge number of benefits that are enjoyed by pupils who attend. Future decisions about residential will be no different in the planning process and will take into account government guidance, as well as the usual risks that we assess, in comparison to the benefits. It may well be that we choose that there are too many unknowns, for us to continue with what was planned - but it is too early to make a decision at the moment about that. Governors are discussing the issue this week, and I will update you in next week's bulletin.

Robinwood staff have informed us that they are able to transfer any bookings from May to later in the year (if we choose to) and this is one of the options available. The issue of returning payments is also something we are looking into, and what impact this will have on school budget since we have already paid the deposit required. We will update everyone about the situation next week.

Critical worker and vulnerable children

As you all know we have managed to assess each child's childcare needs in school using the information you have shared with us about your job roles as well as the contextual information we already have about the children. As the lockdown continues it's important to us that no children/families are put at risk as a result of the challenging situation we are having to endure under lockdown. At the start of week 6, I'd like to remind families that **if it is safe to care for your children at home, then that is what government guidance still advises**. However, if you feel that circumstances have changed and you feel that your child is starting to experience more risks, or show vulnerabilities that are concerning you, as a result of the situation at home, **please contact your child's class teacher (on Facebook private messenger or email info@villageprimary.org)** and we will arrange for someone from the school's leadership team to call you. I am keen that CVPS should be a source of support in our community and as long as we are able to meet social distancing requirements we do have some spaces still available for those children who can no longer be cared for safely at home.

Happy news!

And on a lighter note we were delighted to hear that our early years children have been able to upload video messages for us to send to Northlea Court care home to support the relationships they had developed with the residents, prior to lockdown. Alongside some of the other amazing activities, we intend to share this as a glimpse of some of the great news that is taking place in our CVPS community and beyond, with local press as part of a good news press release. We'll let you know if anyone picks up on it.

Thank you so much for your continued efforts linking up with school. We are so proud to have around 75% to 80% of our children completing their online work regularly. Respect all round!

Stay safe everyone!

Debbie Wylie
Principal