



## Virus Bulletin 10: Update for families

22.5.2020

### Summary:

- Confirmation of dates for school holidays
- Home online learning arrangements are now on the school website <http://villageprimary.org/home-learning/>
- Reminders of arrangements for returning to school

Dear families,

And so we reach the end of another half term! The trials and tribulations of steering the school through the somewhat uncharted waters have been interesting and edifying for me as a school leader. Edifying as a leader due to the encouragements from our supportive families, and the wonderful staff teaching teams (as well as special shout outs to our cleaning and site management, kitchen, admin and business teams!) The CVPS staff commitment to the children has been astounding and they have all worked their socks off this term - both at home and at school. The school is now very much ready for everyone to return in YN, YR, Y1 and Y6, with children from critical workers and those classed as vulnerable continuing as previously.

We have written risk assessments, risk registers, placed orders, welcomed governor scrutiny including two recent (socially distanced) governor visits to review the layout, to minimise risks as well as to plan for the slightly different future that we are expecting. We are currently sourcing quotes for external handwash stations for the playground areas by the concrete blocks as well as quotes to extend our wifi reach into the outdoors. With new purchases for technology in progress as well as lots more plastic in the EYFS (we usually hate plastic but it's easier to clean!) we feel that we have approached the reopening with as much regard to safety as we have to the learning, and focus on having fun with the children which we feel is paramount once we get back.

We are confident that we could not do any more to accommodate the children as safely as possible for their return - and it's been reassuring to hear from you that so many families are endorsing our proposals. The vast majority (65% - 70% as I write) signing up more or less as definite to return their children, and a few others still undecided or choosing not to. We acknowledge that this is a personal choice reflected by government guidance, but we have to say that from social and emotional perspectives, we are pleased that the majority plan to return to school and we intend to benefit them, rewarding your trust in us to take the best care possible of them when they step back in!

### Whole school arrangements reminder:

In line with government advice — and if all the national statistics continue to see the R factor below 1 — we intend that on Monday the 8th June we will implement:

- The successfully trialled one-way system, in and out of the school — coming in by the north-facing gate next to the school car park, and leaving by the east facing-gate, next to Little Angels/early years' usual gate.
- On arrival into the school grounds, you will be greeted at these gates by me and our new business and finance manager, Kerry Warren as well as your child's staff team who will be waiting for the children.
- Staggered start and finish times for children (we cannot deviate from these for families with siblings in more than one year group. Sorry!)

**YN — 8.15am to 11.15am, entering the early years rooms from the front of school**

**YR — 8.45am, to 2.45pm, entering the current Y1 classes through the front door, then going via the hall to Y1**

**Y1 — 9am to 3pm, entering the school through the front door**

**Y6 — 8.30am to 3.30pm, entering school via their usual door**

On **Fridays** all children would normally be leaving at the same 2pm time. So to ensure that we continue our social distancing - we are going to need to make some slight amendments as follows:

## FRIDAY ONLY Finish Times

**YR - 1.45pm children will be brought round to the front of school (30 hour nursery children at 1.45pm too)**

**Y1 - 1.55pm children will be brought to the front of school**

**Y6 - 1.45pm children encouraged to exit school grounds through the exit gate independently**

**Critical worker children - all leave at 2pm as usual children brought to the front of school**

- Children will be grouped on arrival and asked to stand in two lines on the designated crosses marked at the front of school. Parents/carers observe the one-way system as they leave. We hope all parents will model good social distancing at the 2 metre requirement when on school grounds. We can provide a friendly metre-stick check to help you remember!
- On arrival into school, children will be greeted by their class teacher/assistant teacher and the usual squirt of hand sanitiser. This follows the advice that we should wash our hands as soon as we arrive into home (or school) after being outside. We can't guarantee that children won't touch door handles and everything else when they arrive, so to sustain the safest outcomes we ask them to sanitise on arrival.
- Other than returning school equipment on the first day back (please return anything sent home including white boards and school reading books), please do not give your children bags or belongings to bring between home and school as we are minimising risks of transmission. You can still access the online reading programmes which have a great series of books available. Children will be regularly reading in school in their classes, and so we will continue to give a strong focus to reading, but feel that at the moment it's important to minimise risks as much as possible.

## Online learning for Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5

If your child is in Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, online learning will continue as before. We are aware that for some families there may occasionally be issues with their login details and so I am thankful to Sarah Koratzitis who has created a new online learning summary for the children which has been added to the website with the able support of Angela Hall. This gives you a direct link to all the online learning arrangements <http://villageprimary.org/home-learning/> so if you need to find a logon or would like links to other sites for holiday learning please log into the school's website.

Some of the staff today talked about the time they have spent supporting some children who have individual needs, and how soul destroying it is when the child doesn't log on to use the material they have spent time creating (not to mention how it's been wasted time that could have spent on other things). From June onwards, we will need to necessarily be more careful with teacher time and so may need to withdraw some of the learning which is individualised for those children who do not access it **regularly**. I think we could say the phrase is 'use it or lose it!' - please don't worry if this doesn't relate to you - we will obviously only apply this after speaking to individual families concerned and it only relates to children who consistently aren't engaging.

***As you know if your child's year group has reopened there will no longer be online learning posted onto Seesaw - as staff will no longer have capacity for this and we should be fully focussed on the children who are invited back into the building, in terms of managing their safety and enjoyment of learning.***

## Tips for online learning

We have spoken to a number of families who have said that the following things have really helped:

- Create a daily routine or timetable with the children while they are at home and stick to it - parents have told us this works best for children when it includes bedtime, mealtimes, playtime, school time.
- Allow some time in the routine for breaks - this helps children to refocus - (it's not great for them to be on a screen for more than 45 minutes at a time (those Y2 and up) or 30 minutes for those Y1/Y2. We would probably recommend giving them a break as it helps children to refocus especially for the younger ones.
- Let the CVPS staff/class teacher know if your child is struggling with motivation and they can contact them, either by phone, a video on Seesaw or they might even create a group activity to give them a boost
- Incentives for the children - so they know if they complete their work, then they can enjoy some free time, play outside, watch a film, bake or do something creative - or even use their gaming devices!!
- Proper time away from school work at the weekends, and in holidays to allow them a rest.
- We have noticed that some children are choosing only to complete one activity a day - often the easiest activity to show that they have engaged. However the quality of their work and the time they have spent on it

is minimal. This is all being logged and will have an impact on the children's abilities and learning whenever they do return to school. Please encourage your child to complete all the tasks given - especially now that they have been out of school for ten weeks. Class teachers have been contacting families where this has been the case.

On the other hand - it may be that there have been difficult circumstances so some time out of learning is appropriate. **If every day has an excuse - it's not ideal - as the children are missing out on valuable learning.** If there are genuine reasons for your child not completing work then please discuss it with your teacher. The teachers have had many discussions with children directly when it's been requested by parents. This has been instrumental for some families who have managed to turn things around with their children's learning. Please ask if this is something you feel might help your child.

### **In summary**

We are really looking forward to a move towards reopening the whole of the school as soon as we are allowed and have robust plans coming together if we are given the go ahead for the 1st July date mooted last month. However until June 8th please enjoy a break, and here's hoping for good weather so we can all enjoy being out and about a lot more!

Thank you so much for the kind gifts, cards, and encouraging comments, to all the staff team - they have really meant a lot and made us feel so appreciated for what we do.

Happy half term everyone!

Debbie Wylie  
Principal