



Virus bulletin 3. Update for families

23.3.2020

Summary:

Allocations of places for critical workers as listed by government:

- Thanks
- Place allocation process
- Job change notification email address - IMPORTANT
- Staffing arrangements
- Arrangements for care in school
- Reminder about the need to notify for self isolation
- Procedures for out of school club booking arrangements if needed

Reassurances about priorities of safety and following government guidelines

Dear families,

Firstly I'd like to say a huge thank you for the continued support we have received as a school, after what was undoubtedly one of the most challenging weeks of our career in schools. Keeping things as upbeat as possible when we were so sad to say goodbye to the children for what we expect to be a long time. The staff held it together exceptionally well though and we were all excited at the prospect of the online learning trial which as it happened couldn't have been better timing.

Thank you so much to all families for completing the relevant information on the parent survey. Senior leaders have met this morning and agreed which children meet the criteria at this point in time. We fully appreciate that this may well be a changing picture and that we will need to review the information every week in case of changes.

So as a result of that we are able to offer out a total of 26 places. This is higher than the government's recommended 10% and guidance has made it entirely clear that schools should take responsibility for minimising. However all families have a critical worker and after speaking to every one of them, they do not have safe alternative care.

Contact details for job changes or changes to needs

This is a changing picture and we will be reviewing the situation every Friday as a senior team. Please contact the school on a new email address jobchanges@villageprimary.org by the Thursday of every week, so that on Friday mornings we can revise our critical worker needs. We will be prioritising those on the front line in the future.

We fully appreciate that some adults may be redeployed at a later stage, and we can commit to prioritise any health care workers, as an absolute priority, but are aware that things will change - and as the country mobilises its workforce to provide the emergency care needed that we will do our utmost to protect our offer of support while we are all well enough to do so. Please use the email address above though to inform us of changes as we need one port of call to review.

Staffing arrangements

Staffing for the care of the children will be completed on a rota basis, to follow the guidelines to minimise adults in public areas. This will mean that there will be no more than 1 adult in with 13 children spread across two classroom spaces.

Arrangements for care in school

Both pupils and staff will be following social distancing regulations throughout the day. As a result of this there will be significant changes to some of our usual routines:

Starting school

We will run the usual school day from 8.30 to 2.30 (YN- Y2) for pupils in Key Stage 1. We ask that those who are in school arrive on Tuesday morning and we ask that families create a line, 2 metres apart from the school front doors. Staff will come out into the front areas and collect the children.

The usual school day will run from 8.30 to 3.30 for those in KS2. (Y3-Y6)

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE AFTER 8.30am unless you have informed the school. We are running on a skeleton staffing arrangement and cannot guarantee that someone will be at the front of school all day to take in any late children.

If you only need the care for your child for part of the day please inform us as soon as possible so we can make sure that you can access the school building at the time you need after 8.30 or before 2.30 (KS1) or 3.30 (KS2). We may not have someone on the front desk at all times.

Collection time

We will also bring children out of school to the same area at the end of the day if they are not attending out of school club. Please be on time to collect your child.

Classroom arrangements

Pupils will follow the timetable as usual which was sent out last week. They will sit on separate tables in the classrooms and will be told that there is to be no physical contact between them during their time at school. We appreciate that this may seem a bit daunting to them, so will try and be lighthearted and project a positive atmosphere when we explain things to them. There will be separate sittings for lunch with no more than 4 children per large round table.

We will be expecting all children who attend school for care to follow the online learning programme and we will give them one device to use for the time they are at school. The device will be wiped down at least twice daily by the cleaning teams.

It is not possible for children to bring devices into school from home.

Playtimes will be together outside where there is plenty of space. Please ensure that the children have trainers as well as welly boots to wear as we will be going out all weathers.

The children will be required to wear their usual school uniform as we feel it supports their behaviour to be as it usually would be when they are in.

Before and after school provision

As you can appreciate the speed at which the arrangements have needed to happen has not allowed us to have as much prior communication as we would have liked with Little Angels. If you would like to have out of school care for your children during term time, please send a copy of the confirmation letter to Little Angels. We have spoken to them and there will be places available there for all children who need it as they have staffing in place for the rest of this week. However they can only accept children who have been identified from CVPS as being in need of the place.

Easter holidays

We are in the process of making arrangements for the Easter period of time, and it is likely that staff from Little Angels will be made available to accommodate any care needs that are required during this period so that your critical work can continue.

The children will continue during this time (as far as staffing is allowed) to continue to be cared for in their classrooms limiting the children's needs to adapt to yet more changes.

Please let us know if you have a place and can safely care for the children at home. And just to reiterate:

"Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be."

Hygiene and cleanliness at school

We will be continuing with the usual handwashing procedures on an increased basis and general hygiene and our usual cleaning teams will continue to deep clean the spaces not currently being used so that if needed we can relocate our classes when appropriate within school. For example we intend not to use year 3/4 classrooms, but if a child takes ill in school and we need to deep clean this will give us the capacity to relocate the rest of the children in the class quite quickly.

Please remember that if you have been allocated a place for your child they will not be able to attend if they have a high temperature or a new and persistent cough, or if others in the family household are self isolating.

Kind regards and best wishes to you all

Debbie Wylie