



Newsletter September 18th 2020

Dear Parents,

Now that our second week of term is over, we are continuing to reflect on ways to celebrate the many positives of school life and discern creative ways to enhance communication within a restricted and uncertain world. Despite the uncertainties of our time we are moving forward with hope and resilience and draw much joy from the simple things in life; a kind comment, a smile, a helping hand.

Staff Changes

Welcome to our new staff members this term: Miss Buxton (TA in KS1), Miss Warr (Y1W teacher) and Miss Roberts (Y3R teacher). We welcome members of the 'Perfect Finish' cleaning team who are supplementing our site staff this term. We also welcome back both Mrs Scott (Y5 teacher) and Mrs Riggs (Pre-school leader) this term following their maternity leaves. Farewell to Miss Rachel Wray-Cook who leaves our site team this month to take up a cleaning post for the Yellow Buses.

What's going well?

- Most children have settled well.
- New Staff and pupil have settled in well.
- The staggered start ensures parents disperse limiting congestion.
- Children look exceptionally smart and ready to learn.
- Extended use of the outdoor learning space for all year groups.
- An increasing majority of adults wear face coverings at peak drop off / pick up times.

What needs improving?

- Congestions at gates at home time.
- Social distancing for those adults not wearing masks (especially where they are exempt for health reasons).
- Noise disturbing classes still in session during staggered drop off and pick up.

Solutions

- Social distancing of 2m+ is essential where adults from different households mix without a mask.
- Durdells Avenue gate will be opened promptly at 2.50pm. Please do not arrive on site early.
- Please remember that when you are waiting in the playground, children in classes are learning. Please keep any siblings by your side and do not allow them to run around mixing with pupils from other year groups. Please stand away from open windows.

Virtual Communication

Teachers will post video messages in replacement of '**Meet the Teacher**' sessions that usually take place in September. The purpose is to confirm class routines and expectations.

Pupil progress and target information will be shared with parents before half term. Parents will have the option of a **virtual consultation** with teachers where you will be able to discuss how your child is coping with being back at school.

Our 'Open Evening' for entry to Year R 2021 will be a virtual event and further details will be available later this month.

COVID-19 Tests and Self Isolation

There is a useful symptom checker on the NHS website that will give you advice : <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>. If you or anyone in your household have any of the Covid-19 symptoms you must not come onto school site and get a test as soon as possible.

Do not get a test if you don't have a Covid-19 symptom, but persevere with 119 if you do have symptoms. To book a test visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Please follow our guidelines about not sending in pupils with 2/3 symptoms, **make sure** they have C-19 symptoms.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **High temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **New, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Our local PHT has produced an excellent document for parents which is attached to this newsletter.

Wet colds e.g. snuffles and runny noses are not symptoms.

Social Distancing

This is still our biggest asset and Achilles' heel. We must keep reminding ourselves of how important it is to keep a distance from each other in and out of school in order to minimise the risk of spreading Covid-19 within our community. I remind all present on site at peak pick up and drop off times that 2m social distancing is essential; even more so where we have vulnerable adults on site who are unable to wear face coverings. I recognise how many parents are anxious in the current climate and hope to ensure that all of our parents feel safe when they come onto school site.

Face Coverings

Wearing face coverings on site is not mandatory and all responsible adults have a choice, however, where we believe that peak pick up and drop off times are congested, we have asked parents to wear a face covering or indicate that they are exempt. My staff and I respect the fact that many parents are exempt and feel that should you wear a lanyard this can prevent any discussion on the matter.

Face coverings are generally not worn inside the school building; however, staff may elect to wear a visor. In addition, staff are advised to wear a visor in certain situations: when mixing with adults who are not in their bubble, any face to face meetings, one to one work with pupils who require specific care, supervision of any person who is symptomatic of C-19. Staff will wear face coverings outside at peak drop off and pick up times where 2m distance cannot be guaranteed.

Visitors to school will be asked to wear a face covering. If you are exempt, please do let us know and we will modify our arrangements to keep you and staff safe.

Sandwell project

Thank you to those that have sent consent forms back. We have had an enthusiastic response. Any pupils who did not have an opportunity to participate this week will have another opportunity soon.

Laudato Si and Me

The pupils are enjoying their first curriculum theme this month and have been reflecting on their experiences of lockdown. They spend time each day journaling and focusing on things that they are grateful for.

Next week the children will work on a **Maths and Art** curriculum focus which will reinforce our work on mindfulness and tuning into our senses. Please look out for the year group newsletters and topic maps that class teachers will post on the year group webpages this month.

Collective Worship

Children continue to have daily acts of prayer and worship each day. This may be within the class group or year group bubble. All other liturgies and assemblies continue to be virtual this term and are videoed or live-streamed into the classes.

Dates for your diary

Spanish Day –Wednesday 7th October

Harvest Day – Thursday 8th October

Frequently Asked Questions

Senior staff are present outside school both before and after school. We have addressed some of the many queries that we have had below:

Can I include food items that 'May contain traces of nuts' in my child's lunch box?

No – we have a No Nut Policy. Please remember that we are a Nut Free school – please be extra vigilant when preparing packed lunches for your child. Read the packaging of all foods provided – if a label says that an item 'MAY contain nuts / or may contain traces of nuts, then it must **not** be included. Several parents have asked for ideas of suitable items to buy that would be nut free – we will look at gaining more advice for parents in this area. Even items that 'May' contain traces of nuts present a life threatening risk to some of our pupils.

Are Year R Pupils taking part in Fit Friday?

Year R are still settling into school routines so they will join in with Fit Fridays later this term – please look on Tapestry for information pertinent to Year R and Pre-School from the Early Years Team.

Can I bring in Birthday Treats for my child's class?

If it is your child's birthday, only individually wrapped cakes or treats may be provided for the class. These must be **NUT free** and will be given to each child at the end of the day so parents are informed. No treat should be eaten on school site.

Can I leave my child alone on site before school?

Only pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are permitted to be unaccompanied on site and only with written authorisation from a parent. All other pupils, Pre-school up to Year 4 must be accompanied by their grown up until handed over to a member of staff.

What if I arrive late to school?

Classroom doors will close promptly at the designated time. Teachers will not hold doors open for you beyond this point as this would delay the learning schedule. We expect all pupils to arrive promptly. If you arrive after your designated time, please report to the front reception office for access. Please do not knock on the classroom windows or doors as this unsettles the children and disturbs the learning.

What do I do on a rainy day?

In exceptionally inclement weather staff, where possible, will make allowances for early entry to prevent any pupils being soaked outside. We do however recommend rain coats and umbrellas where shelter is not available for parents.

Is the Church available for Prayer?

There is a daily mass at 9.30am at Christ the King Church. Please see the church website for details of access to the church.

How do I contact my child's teacher or any member of staff?

You may speak briefly with your child's class teacher at the start / end of the day and request a phone conversation. You may also email the school at christtheking@ctkcps.com and the office team will forward the message to the relevant member of staff. Please clearly mark your child's name and class on all correspondence.

Let Us Pray

We give thanks for:

- ❖ The safe return of our pupils this term.
- ❖ Our new Year R and pre-school pupils who start this term.
- ❖ Our 'Laudato Si and Me' project and our values led curriculum.
- ❖ The support of the Cornerstone Church and the funding towards our Trick Box wellbeing programme.

We pray for those in our community:

- ❖ Who have recently lost loved ones, that they receive support to bare the pain and sadness.
- ❖ Who feel isolated and anxious, that they feel welcomed and a sense of belonging.
- ❖ Who are new, that they are welcomed with a smile and settle.
- ❖ Fr Chacko and all local clergy that they continue to inspire and support us in faith, hope and love.

Reflection

DON'T GIVE UP ON THIS YEAR.
KEEP FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD.
KEEP SHOWING UP.
KEEP LOVING.
KEEP GIVING BACK.
KEEP BEING BRAVE.
KEEP CARING.
KEEP TRYING NEW THINGS.
KEEP SHOWING GRACE.
KEEP ON.
THE WORLD NEEDS YOU
TO BELIEVE IN THE GOOD.

And finally, thank you for your continued support. Please help us to maintain a healthy community by following the government guidelines and avoid mixing households outside of school.
Best wishes to you all.

Clare Tickel

Headteacher

faith
hope
love