

News from the Federation 18th September 2020

Logistical Challenges

As we now come to the end of the second week, you may have heard how the cases of coronavirus are increasing nationwide. This is affecting our school community on a day to day basis which means that we are often having to react to situations to manage the schools, in order for them to stay open and maintain a low risk environment for children, staff and parents. This may sometimes translate into a lack of communication or varying/changing information which we understand can be frustrating.

We would like to highlight some issues we are facing and also apologise for any inconvenience all this has caused. Our schools are operating with a limited staff team and the new staggered start and end times, separate class bubbles and increased cleaning/sanitising throughout that day is a logistical challenge for all schools, including ours.

All break times and lunchtimes, must also be staggered and staffed according to the guidance. We are limited in the space and staff that we have available to cover at these times but are doing our best. Our office staff are also experiencing a high volume of phone calls and emails due to parents not being able to access the schools sites, in addition to fulfilling their usual duties of operating the administrative aspects of running a school. Workload for the office has increased significantly with staff illnesses adding to the already stretched capacity across the schools. During this time, we ask for your continued support and patience as we navigate our way through these exceptional circumstances and assure you that we are working extremely hard to keep our schools open so that children can be engaged in learning and benefit from social interactions.

Contacting the Office

Please only call or email the office if it is absolutely necessary. If you have messages to pass onto teachers, please email them before 12pm so that they can be passed on and read before the afternoon teaching sessions begin.

SECONDARY TRANSITIONS 2021 – NOW OPEN

The transfer group is now open for your year 6 students to apply for Secondary school for September 2021. We will not be sending out the UID letters as we have in previous years. We wish to remind you that the process to apply for secondary school for next September 2021 is now open and will close on the 31st October 2020. Parents will receive their offer on the 2nd March 2021. Any late applications received after the 31st October will be allocated on the 27th April. Please ensure that your application is submitted on time to ensure the best opportunity of obtaining one of your 3 school preferences. You will need to log into the Citizen Portal to make your application. Last year the majority of parents chose to make their applications for a school place online. Parents must apply via their home local authority (where they pay their Council Tax to) for transferring from Primary to Secondary school. This is the link to the Cambridgeshire online application process:- <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondary-school>

Free School Meals

We understand that more families may be vulnerable due to the economic impact of COVID so we would like to encourage everyone who thinks they may be eligible to apply for Free School Meals. Please apply via this link - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals).

Term Dates/School Closure Dates

Individual Photos:

Friday 9th October

Flu Vaccinations YR- Y6

Monday 7th December

Half Term:

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Last day of Autumn Term:

Friday 18th December

Free School Meals (Cont)

If you need any help please contact the Education Welfare Benefit Team at ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

If your child(ren) are eligible for a free school meal but are self-isolating with Covid-19 symptoms and therefore absent from school, you can order a packed lunch from school, however you will need to make arrangements for someone to collect the lunch for you as anyone self-isolating should not leave their home. Please ring or email the school before 10am and let us know your choice of cheese or ham sandwich. At Fawcett the lunches will be left outside the dining hall in the car park (near the gate where you would enter the site if you were visiting the school). At Trumpington Meadows they will be left in the entrance hall between the main doors and the foyer. Lunches will be ready to collect from 12pm. No vouchers will be available in place of packed lunches.

Meet the Teacher

Our class teachers will be holding virtual 'Meet the Teacher' sessions starting from week beginning: 28th September and they will be in touch with you with a google link and time for your class.

Face Coverings

With the recent increase in the R number and the high volume of traffic we have at school which means that many adults and children are coming into close contact, we would like to ask all parents and carers to start wearing mask when dropping off and collecting children. This will help in reducing the risk of the virus spreading in our school community and allow for us all to remain safe.

Google Classroom

In addition to homework being set on Google classroom, we will also be uploading weekly classwork on each class page for those children who cannot attend school due to illness, quarantine or who may be self-isolating.

Website

The school website will be used to share class information (timetable, curriculum overviews and celebration of children's work).

Play park at TM

Please all parents and children support us in limiting the spread of the virus by continuing to maintain social distancing outside of school where possible. Many parents have raised concerns about the congestion in the park after school and how that is compromising the efforts put into keeping children separate at school.

Reporting pupil medical absence:

In line with the national guidance we will be requesting some further information from you when you ring into the school office to report a medical absence. The office staff will ask the following questions:

- Does your child or anyone in your family display symptoms of Coronavirus?
- If yes, have you booked a test?

Negative test result

- Where the child or young person tests negative, **they can return to school and members of their household/support bubble can end their period of self-isolation.**

Positive test result

- Where the child tests positive **they will need to isolate for 10 days, their household members are advised to self-isolate for 14 days. This includes siblings.**

Please provide proof of the results of the test to the school office.

All children will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. To book a test, <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or phone 119.

In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the steps that we can all take to minimise the risk of spreading infection. These simple measures are:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel, if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- continue to social distance from other families

Thank you for your continued support in keeping us all safe.