



News from Cumnor School

Autumn Term Number 1

11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you've all had a good week. The children all seem to have settled in to their new routines now and starting to really focus on their work. We are getting through all the initial teething problems and now just have a few adjustments to make.

Collecting times

Collection from classes can be from 3pm onwards. We obviously need to open the school gates just before this time, but please remember that the classes are still working when you arrive. Please stay towards the back of the playground, or on the grass so that you don't disturb the children working or listening to a story. To help reduce congestion we would also ask, now that the children have settled into their new routines, that only one adult comes to drop off or collect their children. Thank you

PE kits

This seems to have been the most controversial of all our Covid adjustments! The main issues have been around girls and in particular their shoes (some of which are pretty patent shoes with no grip and clearly not great for sports such as tag-rugby!) and dresses / skirts (decency concerns particularly from the older girls).

Currently there is a need for classes to be doing additional PE and exercise post-lockdown in order to support children's well-being (both physical and mental) and so most classes are undertaking some sort of exercise such as the daily mile each day. This combined with the fact that changing takes so long (when we are trying to use every minute of the day to catch up with lost teaching over the past 6 months) and can also aid the spread of any infections,

We have tried to be as flexible as possible with the uniform – it is important that we keep it so that the children can put it on and get into 'work' mode but we understand your frustrations at the same time. Most boys seem to be OK with trousers, shorts, trainers and even the traditional school shoes are quite substantial and suitable for running around in. We are happy to take a flexible approach with the girls uniform so trousers, leggings, cycling shorts etc. will all be fine. Many girls do now choose to wear leggings or cycling shorts under their skirts or dresses. All we ask is that you try and keep as close to the school colours as you can (black is fine too). If the children do have footwear that is likely to be dangerous and cause them to slip over during PE then we are happy for them to bring trainers, keep them in their locker or small bag and then change quickly when needed. I hope this helps.

Birthday Sweets / Cakes

We are discouraging any possible transfer opportunities between home and school and so would ask that you do not send children in with treats from home to celebrate their birthdays. This has always been a little controversial anyway because of allergies, dietary requirements, healthy eating etc. so this seems a good opportunity to say that we will no longer be allowing the children to give out birthday sweets at school. This is a good opportunity to remind everyone again that we are a 'nut-free school' and have several children with severe allergies to nuts and so please ensure that you do not include items with nuts in them, in lunchboxes or for morning time snacks. Thanks you.

Covid Questions – Why do we have class bubbles at school?

This is purely to stop the spread of any potential covid-19 virus. If the children and staff only interact within a group of around 30 people then if there were an outbreak then it will only potentially affect a class rather than the whole school. If we allowed the children to socialise between the bubbles then if there was a case of Covid-19 in school everyone could become infected and so we would be forced to lockdown the entire school rather than just one class – a scenario none of us wants to see happen. There is nothing that can be done about siblings being in different bubbles though and then mixing at

home, but we urge you to follow the guidance on what to do if any family member develops Covid symptoms and keep everyone at home until you get the results from a Covid test centre. (see the flow chart below). This way the risk of spreading the virus is reduced significantly. I would also urge you to keep the children away from other bubbles outside too. It is very frustrating for us when we have gone to some quite extreme lengths to separate the class bubbles to then see children from all classes playing together on the field at the end of the day! And in case you haven't seen them, the new rules from the government have also said that no-one should now meet in a group of more than 6 – “*From Monday 14 September, when meeting friends and family you do not live with you must not meet in a group of more than 6, indoors or outdoors.*”

With new cases of Covid on the rise once more (up from under 1000 new cases a day in July to 3000 a day now) it is becoming more likely that one of the families at our school becomes infected at some point in the near future. We very much appreciate the efforts that you can make to ensure that if this is the case, the virus does not spread to school or between class bubbles. The last thing we need just now is another full school closure!

PTA Committee News

Welcome back! We hope you all had a really lovely summer holiday and are settling in well to the new school year. The *Parent Teacher Association* (PTA) is an organisation of parents and staff. Its role is to encourage closer links between home and school through fundraising and running events that provide an opportunity for parents, staff and pupils to get together and have fun! All parents/carers and teachers are automatically members of the PTA. Our PTA Committee currently consists of a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and several General Committee Members. There is one parent liaison for each class, from Reception through Year 6. Please join and follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Cumnor-Primary-School-PTA-2303883376352068>.

Socially, the year ahead will be a very different one without many of the exciting events we traditionally put on for the students and their families. The Autumn School Disco and Christmas Fayre will be replaced with new fun activities to help raise much-needed funds for the school, so please watch this space and our Facebook page for details! All ideas for socially-distanced fundraisers are welcome and we sincerely hope you will support and enjoy any new activities we come up with!

A big thank you to everyone who has donated uniform and to those who shopped at our uniform sale last Friday afternoon. Over £120 was raised! We are not sure when we will be able to hold another PTA Uniform Sale. In the meantime, we are going to trial a new 'click and collect' type shopping option. If you require any uniform items, please send your request to our designated email address, cumnorprimaryuniformpta@gmail.com, and we will endeavour to find you what you need. We are currently unable to accept uniform donations via the school office. So, for now, we will have a designated uniform drop-off day/time of ***Monday morning only*** when a PTA Committee member will be on hand to safely collect and store it. Please place any uniform you wish to donate into the marked container outside the school's main entrance by 9am. We kindly ask that all items left are in clean, ready-to-wear condition. Thank you!

Next week's meal menus (week1)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese and Tomato Pizza Slice	Oven Baked Sausages OR Vegetarian Sausages	Pasta Carbonara OR Macaroni Cheese	Oven Baked Beef Burger in a Roll OR Southern Style Quorn Burger in a Roll	Fish Fingers and Chips OR Quorn Dippers and Chips
Apple Crumble with Custard	Mashed Potatoes Oat and Apricot Cookie	Raspberry Cupcake	Ginger Cookie	Iced Fruit Smoothie

What's my child been doing this week?

Reception	Learning new sounds 's' and 'a', painting self-portraits and making new friends.
Year 1	Writing numbers to 10, reading alien words like Beegu, and exploring music through body percussion.
Year 2	Measuring in centimetres, creating pictures in the style of Andy Warhol and writing about the character Titch.
Year 3	Learning about place value by ordering and partitioning large numbers, hunting for dragon verbs and nouns, and learning how to run and pass with a rugby ball.
Year 4	Understanding the place value in 4-digit numbers, using dictionaries to find definitions of new words and starting our Roald Dahl topic.
Year 5	Planning and writing a recount about an event in the summer holidays, locating places in the Americas to introduce our topic and reading, writing and comparing big numbers.
Year 6	Identifying place value in 7 digit numbers and decimals, Reading the opening chapters of Alice in Wonderland and Northern Lights, working on cricket and netball skills.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely



Ed Read

COVID SYMPTOMS FLOW CHART

