



News from Cumnor School

Autumn Term Number 2

18th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I want to start by thanking you all for the support and understanding you have shown over the last couple of weeks. Getting the school ready for reopening was a difficult task and there have been a few hiccups on the way. However the whole thing has been made so much more straightforward as you, the school parents, have been tolerant and understanding of the changes we make. Following our one way system, social distancing requests such as only having one adult at drop off and collection, new contacting school procedures and even the changes to school uniform arrangements – all these changes have been met with acceptance and willingness to give them a go. So thank you for your support – it has meant that we can focus on keeping your children safe in school and teaching!

Hill End Trips

We are delighted that all our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes have been able to book in a well-being day at Hill End for some time this term. This will be a whole day of practical activities and mindful experiences to help improve the wellbeing of our children. The day follows the 5 ways to wellbeing that we followed during lockdown (connect, be active, keep learning, give to others and take notice).

Details of your child's class trip and further information will be sent home over the next couple of weeks.



Covid Questions – How is the testing system working for us?

You would have heard lots of rumours and seen sensational headlines about the failures of the testing system at the moment. It is not great, but you'll also realise that it is the most extreme cases that make the headlines. I thought it would be useful to share with you what the experience has been like for the school families in Cumnor who have taken the Covid test this week so you can be prepared if you need to arrange a test.

We have had 6 families this week who have been asked to self-isolate and arrange for a Covid test. (3 with ill children, 3 with ill family members) The majority have now been returned and all have been negative.

The main difficulty has been getting a test booked in. Once the online form is complete the message is usually 'No test appointments available'. Unfortunately the only option in this case is to try again – you don't have to go through the whole process again, simply refresh and re-submit. Eventually all families did get an appointment, but for some this took all day.

There seem to be key times when blocks of new appointments are released. Unofficially, this seems to be at around 8am, 10am and 8pm. Most of our families have finally got a slot, although for some it took all day (one ended asking for a home test instead) but the appointment may not be in Oxford – it could be quite a drive away (the furthest offer was Worcester (1 ½ hours drive)

It may be worth trying to opt for a walk-in centre if your having no luck with drive-ins – there's one at Oxford Brooks which one family used, but it still needs to be booked through the online system.

Parents who have phoned the 119 number instead have been discouraged from doing so as the people answering the phones don't have any priority access. This service is aimed at families who don't have internet access.

Once taken the majority of test results seem to be coming back within 72 hours.

I realise the difficulty and frustrations this process causes parents. We are only asking families to self-isolate and test, if someone has one of the symptoms of; high temperature, persistent cough or lack of taste/ smell. There are a lot of children with colds, sore throats or tummy bugs about now. This was

probably as a result of all the children suddenly coming back together again, and passing their new ailments to each other whilst immune systems are lower as a result of the distancing they have been doing over the last 6 months. I am hoping that this initial burst of illnesses will come to a natural end soon, making it easier to identify those children who are more likely to have covid symptoms rather than fevers and coughs caused by other viruses such as the common cold. As you know from my email earlier this week, we are asking that children who don't have covid symptoms stay at home whilst they are feeling ill and to come back to school as soon as they are feeling well enough to do so – the same policy as we had pre-covid.

I hope that clarifies the current situation for us in Cumnor at the moment. I will, of course, update you if things change for the better or worse!

PTA Committee News

Please like and follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Cumnor-Primary-School-PTA-2303883376352068>. If you are interested in joining the PTA Committee this year, please get in touch with our Secretary at tara.cm@gmail.com for more information. We would welcome any new members and would especially love for some Reception class parents to join us this year!

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 tower doors by 9am. **We are especially in need of Year 6 purple jumpers and every size regular navy jumpers.** We kindly ask that all items left are in clean, ready-to-wear condition. Thank you!

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. Items are just £1 each.

Other attachments

Please also find attached to this newsletter a flyer from Matthew Arnold School relating to their virtual Open Evening and a flyer from Cumnor Church about their next Big Story Sunday.

Next week's meal menus (week 2)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese and Tomato Pizza Slice	Chicken Burger in a Roll and Chips OR	Sausage Roll OR	Lasagne OR	Fish Fingers and Chips OR
Jacket Wedges	Quorn Dippers and Chips	(V) Sausage Roll New Potatoes Green Beans, Carrots	Vegetarian Lasagne Broccoli, Sweetcorn	Fishless Fingers and Chips Peas, Baked Beans
Sweetcorn, Coleslaw	Crudities		Chocolate and Orange Cupcake	
Strawberry Jelly Pot	Fruit Flapjack	Sticky Toffee Pudding with Custard		Ice Cream Tub

What's my child been doing this week?

Reception	Melting dinosaur eggs, writing our sounds in gloop and counting up to 20.
Year 1	Counting on within 20, practising our fine motor skills and drawing a simple map.
Year 2	Printing in the style of Andy Warhol, learning about a balanced diet and writing the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bear's Lunch.
Year 3	Ordering and rounding large numbers to 10, working on spelling words with ing, er and ed suffixes, and continuing to look at how to stay safe online by thinking about how reliable information on the internet may or may not be.
Year 4	Learning methods to help us add and subtract mentally, creating a fact file about Roald Dahl and creating circuit diagrams.
Year 5	Researching the areas of the world where cocoa beans grow, practising note taking skills and using those notes to write a non-chronological report about animals in the Amazon rainforest.
Year 6	Rounding decimal numbers, using synonyms and antonyms and writing news reports about Robsart's death.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely



Ed Read

COVID SYMPTOMS FLOW CHART

