

CANON POPHAM CofE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Church Balk, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. DN3 2PP

Phone: 01302 884465 Fax: 01302 890623

E-mail: enquiries@cpa.dsat.education

Headteacher: Mrs A. Navas Chair of Governors: Mr C. Mitchell



Monday 2nd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of our Autumn Term. We hope you have had a good break and are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school and learning.

Update on COVID status in school.

As you are aware, towards the end of last half term we had our Y2 bubble working from home and also had some staff working at home due to positive COVID tests. I am pleased to say that those staff are now back at school, and we are delighted to have our Y2 children back as well.

As we all know, the situation locally and nationally is a significant cause for concern, and we will be going into a national lockdown on Thursday of this week. Schools will continue to operate as planned, even if the rest of the country is under lockdown. We are working hard to do our best to ensure that learning continues for our children as normally and consistently as is possible in the circumstances and that they are safe in school.

However, please be aware that school staff have the same issues as everyone else, who is operating under lockdown restrictions. We may have staff who have been contacted through the NHS track and trace systems, and while not ill themselves, may be required to be out of school due to close contact with a positive case. We may have staff who have a member of their household who has symptoms or a positive test and therefore need to isolate. We will therefore potentially be working under changing staffing situations, even though schools are staying open.

In Reception class and Y 1 class, we have teaching staff who come under these categories at the moment and whilst well themselves, are unable to be in school.

Our main priority is always to keep children and staff safe. We will therefore be maintaining tight bubbles and will aim to manage every class bubble within the staffing available in that bubble, as much as possible, given the staffing that we may have at any given time. If teachers have to be at home, (even though their class can be at school) so long as they are well enough to do so, they will deliver their teaching direct to the classroom every day via zoom, with the support staff working to manage the class and support the children within the classroom. Unfortunately, the situation can change from day to day, and therefore, our staffing provision may need to change in response to this.

We would ask that you please bear with us as we try to maintain the safest and most consistent delivery of teaching for the children, in unprecedented and challenging times. We hope that children will always come home from school feeling confident that they are safe and happy in their class bubble, but please help us by following the rules of social distancing, wearing masks on site and exiting the premises and road in front of the school as soon as possible.

If your child has any one of the COVID symptoms, you MUST NOT send them to school. This helps us to keep everyone's children and the staff as safe as we can. We understand your frustrations, especially as we are in the coughs and colds season, but we have to follow the rules for everyone's safety and protection.



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

CANON POPHAM CofE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Church Balk, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. DN3 2PP

Phone: 01302 884465 Fax: 01302 890623

E-mail: enquiries@cpa.dsat.education

Headteacher: Mrs A. Navas Chair of Governors: Mr C. Mitchell



Parents Evenings

As you were made aware last half term, we are unable to run parents evenings in the usual manner as we are working hard to keep the school COVID- safe. Therefore, parents and teacher conversations will take place by telephone. You will still have a 10 minute appointment time and if you feel that, following the discussion you need a further meeting, this can be arranged with the class teacher and take place via 'zoom.'

The parents' evenings are on Tuesday 10th November and Thursday 12th November. Please be mindful that you will need to be available for your appointment time and that the number may come up as a withheld number and may not always show up as the school number.

You will receive a link to book an appointment time on Wednesday of this week.

Reading books

Over the next 2 weeks, we will be letting you know about our new reading book system, called Bug Club, which means children can access reading books on line rather than having books brought home. We hope that this will reassure parents even more about the safety of what we send home. This system allows for children to access books at every stage of their reading development, matched to their reading stage and also has the opportunity for teachers to check children's comprehension of the books, because every book has a series of questions that children are expected to be able to answer before moving on.

We will be sending home further information this week.

School Meals

We are mindful that as we enter the coldest time of the year, we would ideally like children to access a hot meal option at school. This week I am going to be in conversation with Taylor Shaw, our school meals provider about how we can do this, whilst maintaining the class bubbles and eating in classrooms. We are hoping to introduce a hot meal option within the next 2 weeks or so. However, it is likely to be a single hot meal option or a grab bag. We will not be able to offer the wide choice menu we previously did, as meals will have to be served in classrooms. We will update you with further information as soon as we have developed this.

Today we have had more than 20 children come to school with no packed lunch and no school lunch ordered either. This then takes a great deal of office time to contact parents, place late orders etc. putting both office and kitchen staff under additional pressure. In addition, being able to produce additional late orders to this extent is difficult as the kitchens do not hold lots of surplus food in stock.

It is vitally important that you ensure that your child has either a packed lunch provided from home or that their food order is placed early. We would never leave a child to be hungry, but if lunches are not ordered it may result in the child having a limited choice as to what we are able to offer them.

Christmas Plans

As you will appreciate, we are dealing with a constantly changing picture of staffing and guidance and so the plans for Christmas are still being developed (much the same as families at home.) However, it seems to be very highly unlikely that we will be able to do our usual nativity plays, carol services etc., as we are not able to gather together. However, please be assured that we will ensure that children DO have some Christmas activities and celebrations within their bubbles. We are also



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

CANON POPHAM CofE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Church Balk, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. DN3 2PP

Phone: 01302 884465 Fax: 01302 890623

E-mail: enquiries@cpa.dsat.education

Headteacher: Mrs A. Navas Chair of Governors: Mr C. Mitchell



hoping that if at all possible, we will be able to record classroom based nativity plays/ special class assemblies on a Christmas theme that we will be able to email out to parents and carers at the end of the Christmas term, so that we can share Christmas in school with you in some way. More information will follow closer to the time.

As always, we understand the pressures that everyone is under. If you need help for yourself, your children or family, please feel welcome to contact us. Whether it is support with food provision, help applying for benefits, support with getting tests etc., we will do our best to help. We are all in this together and want to support in any way we can.

Thank you for working with us and for your support in this very challenging time
Mrs Navas



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England