



Cliddesden Primary School
Headteacher's Newsletter
Autumn Term Issue 2
18 September 2020

Dear parents, carers and members of our school community

CV19 Update

I would like to say how wonderful pupils have been in adapting to our "new normal" and we are enormously proud of how they - along with adults in school and you as parents - are managing these difficult times. There is a strong sense of community and team spirit in school as ever.

As you will have read in the news, there are many people currently struggling to get a Covid test for their children. Despite this, it is important that if your child is displaying Covid symptoms that you must try and get a test and isolate until tested. We have had some children off with colds and as I said earlier in the week, if your child has a cold please keep them off until they are better and if they display any of the **3 main Covid** symptoms, book a test and follow the isolation procedures. Our ultimate aim during this year is to keep the school open. If there is an outbreak of Covid in the school, it will not be my decision to close a class bubble or the school but Public Health England. Let us hope that never happens.

We need the continued support and diligence of the Cliddesden school community and we thank you for following the processes we have put in place.

For the school to remain open we need staff, and in particular, teachers not to become ill. So, if a teacher has suspected Covid symptoms they will need to self-isolate and access a test. If the test is negative they can come back to school. However, it may be the case that there will **not** be another member of staff to take the class without entering a new 'bubble' or there might be a delay in accessing a test.

The school is currently in the process of setting up a plan for remote learning should children need to isolate at any point or if a bubble has to stay off school. To assist us in this, could you please let the school office know by email if your child would not be able to access an electronic device during a period of absence from school. Contact the office on this address: adminoffice@cliddesden.hants.sch.uk

We have spent a lot of time preparing our Covid mitigation approaches, re-reading the guidance and thinking through different scenarios and our response to those scenarios. We have continued to have meetings to answer staff questions and clarify our thinking regarding how to keep the school functioning under the 'new normal'. I have spent time talking to other Headteachers locally, meeting with my Chair of Governors and keeping up with accounts from other schools which has been incredibly useful.

We have updated our CV19 risk assessment and this is available to view in Statutory Information on our school website.

A reminder of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- a **high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a 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)
- a **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

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

Please refer to this NHS link for further details. This is also on the home page of our website.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Junior Leadership

We are currently, and for the foreseeable future, unable to do many of the usual routines we have in school. Every year we choose a Head Boy and Girl and their deputies. Their roles include showing visitors around the school and helping me in assemblies - neither of which are possible right now. However, we still want the children to have an opportunity to apply for these roles. Yesterday Mrs Smith and I had the pleasure of interviewing Year 6 pupils for these roles. They were all brilliant and showed confidence and determination. This made it very difficult for us to choose the right candidates! So everyone who applied now goes through to the next round. As all assemblies will now be remote using Google Classrooms, we have asked each candidate to make a powerpoint about a school value and next week they will present it to us and their class. Hopefully then we can make a decision. Good luck to all the candidates - it is going to be tough!

Diary Dates

Currently there are few upcoming dates to mention. Football club has started for Oak Class and we need to remind you that on **Monday 28th September** we have an INSET day and the school will be closed for staff training.

Home Reading

The teachers have adapted their planning to allow for catch-up for many of our pupils. Despite parents doing an amazing job of being substitute teachers during lockdown there are still some gaps to fill.

I cannot stress more the importance of hearing your child read at home. Whatever year group they are in I ask that you support the school by finding the time (and as a parent I know this can be tricky!) to hear your children read regularly.

You may find this link useful

<https://www.fortheteachers.org/friday-five-ways-a-parent-can-help-a-child-learn-to-read/>

I wish you all a happy and safe weekend.

Kenneth Davies
Headteacher

To view diary dates and class pages, find out about our curriculum, read all about our events in school, view your child's homework tasks, learn how to stay safe on the internet and much more please visit our school website www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk

Cliddesden Primary School, Cliddesden, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2QU

Email: adminoffice@cliddesden.hants.sch.uk

Website: www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk.