



Newsletter - Monday 7th December 2020

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents and Carers,

We all had such a lovely time on Friday recording our promotional video for Facebook—the children did themselves proud. Their singing, speaking and work was fantastic. The video should be available on Facebook by tomorrow morning. I will also send out a text message link to you. All of the items made will be sent home (if they weren't eaten on the day!) before the end of term. As this was part of our curriculum activities there will be no charge—but do feel free to send in a donation towards school fund if you wish. (Last year they would have been sold at our Christmas Fair and would have raised funds in that way.)

Another Christmas tradition that we cannot do is the Nativity that you would come along to school and watch. At the moment this is not possible. However, staff have come up with an alternative solution.

We would like to do a Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity and a Key Stage 2 Nativity. Both of these will be recorded and put onto a DVD which parents can purchase for £2. This would be released on the strict understanding that **it cannot be shared on any form of social media** – just like any recording you might make of a Christmas nativity or sing-a-long in school. Doing this would allow all children to be on the recording.

In order to know how many copies of the Nativity CD will be required a text message will be sent to all parents asking if they would like to purchase a copy. You will need to reply Yes to the text.

I hope this will be something that you will be happy for your child to be involved in, but if you have concerns please contact me or Mr Tait at school by phone or email.

Remember that you can always contact school by email or telephone if there is anything that you are concerned about.

Regards
Mrs Brown

Year 3 PE

The PE sessions that Year 3 were having have now finished. The children no longer need to wear PE kit on a Tuesday and their end of school time goes back to being 3pm.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

We are supporting the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper or come in an ordinary jumper decorated to look festive. As we are trying to reduce the number of items coming from home into school please make a donation to Save the Children from home.

Christmas Party Day

Again we are adapting our celebrations to make them Covid-safe. We are going to have a Christmas Party Day. This will be Thursday 17th December. There will be a range of Christmas activities going on in every classroom and time will be given to each class to have games in the hall. A party tea will be held in each classroom too.

Christmas Cards and Gifts

Christmas cards are arriving in school from today. We will be quarantining them before they are sent home. Any card brought in this week will be given out on Monday 14th December.

If children are bringing gifts for friends could we please ask that they be exchanged before school or after school so that they do not have to come inside school.

As staff, although they are much appreciated, we never expect gifts from parents. If you wish to give gifts to staff, please send them in early so that they can be quarantined.

Change of Date for Training Day

Each year schools across England hold days for staff training. These days are known as Professional Development Days (or PD Days for short). On these days the school is closed to pupils but open for staff to receive training. This academic year the planned PD days were:

o Tuesday 1st September 2020 - Friday 23rd October 2020 - Monday 4th January 2021 - Friday 28th May 2021 -

Tuesday 20th July 2021

We are continuing to focus on phonics development as part of our whole school improvement following our Ofsted inspection. Due to the availability of training it has been necessary to change the date of one of our PD Days; please see the notice below.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please note that the school has changed the planned PD staff training day from Tuesday 20th July 2021 to Monday 8th March 2021.

The school will therefore now be OPEN on Tuesday 20th July 2021 for pupils and CLOSED on 8th March 2021 for pupils.

I will ensure that this new information is updated on our website. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and I appreciate your continued support. Moving a PD date is only ever done when there is no alternative.

I will inform you as soon as soon as possible with the dates for PD days in the academic year 2021-22

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Adamson

On-line learning

Some parents may be thinking that because they signed up to Google Classroom before the summer, they do not need to do it again. Every child changed classes in September, with a new teacher, so **ALL children need to be signed up to their new Google classroom** for this year. Please see the school website page for instructions on how to sign up and get the access code.

Some teachers have said that they would like to be able to set homework via Google Classroom. So the sooner everyone is signed up the easier it will be to access homework.

Wellbeing of Children

We all know how stressful recent times have been and it is sometimes difficult to know where we can get help. The County Council have suggested a number of websites and organisations from whom help can be obtained.

- **MindEd** - a free educational resource from Health Education England on children and young people's mental health.
- **Rise Above** is a website co-created and produced by young people.
- **Every Mind Matters** includes an online tool and email journey which aims to support everyone to feel more confident in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing.
- **Barnardo's See, Hear, Respond** programme, focusing on finding and reaching out to vulnerable children around the country who are experiencing negative impacts on their health and wellbeing,
- **Bereavement UK and the Childhood Bereavement Network**

Is your child ready for Online Learning?

We continue to see a number of children who are having to isolate because family members are having tests or who have had positive tests. So, it is really important that we have all of our children signed up to their Google classroom.

What is my child expected to do if she/he has to isolate?

We want all children to make as much progress as possible even if they have to do their learning at home.

As soon as you have created an account in Google Classroom (details for each class are on the class pages of the website) we can continue to help your child learn.

On the classroom page will be a link to The Oak Academy which we are using to provide literacy, numeracy and learning in other subjects. This will broadly cover similar topics to those being covered in literacy and numeracy. This site was chosen because it doesn't require lots of worksheets to be printed for your child.

Teachers may use the email address that you provide for the classroom to send other work—especially if your child is isolating because of a household member having a positive test rather than a local lockdown.

If you do not have access to an internet enable device (laptop, ipad, phone etc) please contact school.

Work will not be provided for children who are ill with "ordinary" illnesses such as sickness or severe colds.

How can parents/carers help their child with on-line learning?

Have specific times of day for learning (create a timetable for learning) and don't forget that weekends and evenings are times for family and home life activities

Try to create a workspace for learning

Make time for breaks and exercise

Remind your child about how to stay safe on-line. Check that your parental controls are in place and up to date

Contact school if there are any problems—use the email on the Google Classroom page to contact staff

Enjoy learning with your child!

Can my child go to school today?

Do they have any COVID Symptoms?

- 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

Yes
They have a COVID symptom

No
They do not have a COVID symptom

Self Isolate and Book a COVID Test

Book the test online or call 119

All members of the household should stay at home until the test result is known.*

Do they have diarrhoea or vomiting?

No
They do not have diarrhoea or vomiting

Yes
They have diarrhoea or vomiting

Do they feel unwell?

It is important that parents keep children at home when they are unwell

No
They do not feel unwell

Yes
They feel unwell

Send to School

So long as your child feels well, has not been told to self-isolate and there are no other household members with COVID symptoms, it is OK for them to attend school.

Keep at Home

- Remain off school until they feel well enough to return. Seek medical help from a GP if needed (or 111 if your surgery is closed).
- Remain off school until at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. A COVID test is not required for diarrhoea and vomiting without the other symptoms above.

* Visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for advice on when to stop isolating and return to school after a positive or negative test.

Produced: 16 Sept 2020.

Guidance changes regularly, visit [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) for the most up-to-date advice.