



Aycliffe Village Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to say that despite the difficulties that we have faced as a school this week I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to meet at least some of your children. It is not the start I imagined I would have at Aycliffe Village Primary but I am hopeful that the actions we are taking now will indeed make a difference to the country and we can begin to get some normality back in our lives in the not too distant future. I am very much looking forward to greeting you all in person sometime soon.

Holiday	Closing date for pupils	Date re-opens for pupils
Spring half-term 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	Monday 22 February 2021
PD Day	Friday 5th March 2021	Tuesday 9th March 2021
Easter 2021	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 April 2021	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer half-term 2021	Thursday 27 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021	Thursday 2 September 2021

Professional Development Days 2020-2021

School is closed for pupils on:

- **Monday 8 March 2021**
- **Friday 28 May 2021**

Messages from Mrs Adamson

Critical Workers Places and Remote Learning

41% of our school population are currently accessing a critical worker / vulnerable pupil place. Since returning to school on Monday we have revised risk assessments and protocols to ensure that we continue to offer a safe environment for our children to learn.

The government have made it clear to Headteachers that all critical worker children should have a place in school if required. Parents or carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can, for example, if they work part time and only need a place for certain days. If that is the case we would appreciate you letting the school office know so we can plan ahead.

We have had to also reintroduce remote learning. I thank you for the encouragement and support you are giving your children. Please don't underestimate the increased role you play in the education of your children. You are doing a great job. Google Classrooms is new to me I used a different platform at my previous school so I am learning each day too. Teachers will be uploading work on a weekly basis. We are aiming to have the upcoming week's work uploaded by Friday evening as feedback from parents has been that they would appreciate the weekend to prepare for the week ahead as they are working from home and often have more than one child to support with their learning.

Thank you for the comments and data on remote learning and home devices. It is always useful to receive feedback I will report more fully on the survey at a later date. However, it is clear from the many positive comments received that there are many successful elements. I am sure that by the end of this lockdown we will have resolved some of the issues / concerns that some of you have had this week. We have already responded to requests for more paper based activities and, hopefully, by next week, delivery dependent, there will also be paper based resources for reading to supplement online resources available for collection.

Another area that we are keen to explore as a school is how to improve staff / pupil communication during this lockdown period. I absolutely understand that even the most motivated children can sometimes struggle. From first meeting the staff at Aycliffe Village Primary it is clear that they care deeply about the children in their care and will do the best they can for them particularly over the next six weeks. We are investigating ways of connecting with pupils and having remote / virtual contact. However, if you or your child needs to contact us for any reason, big or small, then I encourage you to do so and our teachers and support staff will be pleased to help in any way they can.

Despite the restrictions in our every day life we are working hard to make school as 'normal' as possible. Our class 'bubbles' are working well and the children have been fabulous at hand washing and maintaining a social distance from other adults and children who are not in their bubble. Our one way system and routines are now firmly established and the school atmosphere is as vibrant as it was before COVID-19. The children have shown great resilience and determination in completing tasks set by staff both in and out of school.

I look forward to seeing the contributions on Google classrooms and I hope you all stay safe and well.

Messages from Mrs Adamson

For those accessing Home Learning:

Starting on Monday 11 January, each week day on CBBC will see a three-hour block of primary school programming from 9am, including BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily, as well as other educational programming such as Our School and Celebrity Supply Teacher and much loved titles such as Horrible Histories, Art Ninja and Operation Ouch.

<https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2020/bbc-launches-biggest-education-offer-ever>

Another way to access Google Classrooms without a laptop!



1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for Google Classroom
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.

Children in Year 1 & 2 currently attending school

Please can you bring a pair of wellies to leave in school as we are planning to make more use of our field—hopefully they'll be more snow! Thank you

