



The Crossways Schools Newsletter 1 10th September 2020



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Dear Families,

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for such a warm welcome to Crossways. Many of you will have seen me on the playground in the mornings and after school; it was lovely to receive such a fantastic welcome and to see so many smiling faces. I look forward to us working together.

We are delighted to now be fully re-open and to have welcomed back all the children. It is brilliant to see them in school. This week, we also welcomed our new Reception classes. Children across both schools have been amazing in their positivity and resilience in returning to school. They have been eager to resume their learning and adapt to what school now looks like. The children have very quickly got to grips with the new systems such as lining up at the start of the day and with needing to wash/sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. There have been significant changes for the children, but they are managing it brilliantly. My thanks to all the staff for their hard work in helping to get everything ready for the start of the new school year and with supporting the children with returning to school.

Pick up and drop off

A very big thank you to parents and children for your support with our new systems and processes in school for picking up and dropping off children. We recognise that it may look and feel a little bit different, but know that you want to work with us to ensure the safety of everyone on site. We will be continuing to review the success of the new systems, especially for arrival and pick up.

My thanks to many of you who have given feedback on the new system – your input is valued and appreciated. In line with the DfE guidance, we have introduced staggered start and end times. The aim of this is to support with social distancing by reducing the number of families accessing the school site at the same time. We do understand that for those families with siblings, the new system does pose a few potential difficulties and some waiting time. We are continually observing and monitoring the current system and are keen to be able to make adjustments, where necessary, to ensure the system is as effective as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

To help with keeping everyone safe, we ask that:

- Only one parent brings/collects children to reduce the number of people accessing the school site;
- Parents who need to wait in between dropping off siblings ensure that other pavement users are able to move safely along, without the need to go in to the road. Some parents have found waiting on the other side of the road a good option;
- Parents leave as soon as they have dropped off or collected their child and do not gather in groups outside the school as this blocks the pavement;
- Parents only arrive within their allotted time – we appreciate that many of you have tried to arrive just on time, rather than early, this will alleviate congestion on the pavements outside of school;
- Families maintain social distance from other families – some people may find it difficult to ask you to keep your distance, so please do help to do your bit.

Some parents have asked about wearing face masks for school drop off/collection. This is entirely up to individual parents whether they would like to wear them or not.

Symptoms and testing

A reminder that to support with keeping everyone safe, children must not come to school if they, or anyone else in their household, have symptoms of Covid 19. It is also crucial that anyone who has symptoms has a test as soon as possible. Therefore, you are advised that you should get tested if you develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell

or if you are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse).

Only people who are symptomatic need to get tested. Households must follow the stay at home guidance. Children may only return to school following a negative test result or the period of self-isolation.

If you are unsure about when your child can return to school, please speak with a member of the Leadership Team or one of office staff.

If you are unsure about your child's symptoms, for example if they have a sore throat, headache, sickness, without one of the main three coronavirus symptoms, we advise that parents contact their GP or pharmacist for further advice.

It is important to ensure you advise the school of the results of the test, negative or positive. A positive test may result in needing a class/bubble to self-isolate.

We kindly ask that parents use the school email addresses (not the class ones) to report absence in the usual way.

The school have guidance that we need to follow in the event of a confirmed case of Covid-19 which includes informing Public Health England (PHE) and the Local Authority. PHE will also support schools with next steps should there be a confirmed case within the school.

Remote Learning

We have been developing our remote learning offer and will be providing additional details shortly. We have had some children this week who may have been sent home packs by class teachers. Please note, there is no expectation for children to complete home learning if they are ill. These packs are designed to support families where, for example, one family member may be ill leading to the whole household needing to isolate. In this instance, we want to support parents with remote learning and kindly ask, moving forward, that parents email the class teacher to ask for a pack if/when needed.

We will be providing further details about home learning in the event of a local/national lockdown or a class/bubble self-isolating as soon as we can.

Parking/Car Park

Thank you for your help with keeping the car park a safe part of school and for not driving on to the school premises at any time. The school gate is now partially closed in the mornings, as a precautionary measure, so that vehicles do not access the school car park during pick off and drop off as part of our safety measures.

Please be reminded that adults and children should ensure they use the pathways and not walk across the car park as a small number of authorised vehicles do require access during this time.

We also ask that parents respect our neighbours and local residents and ensure you do not park on dropped curbs, over people's driveways or use their driveways to turn around in.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Staff news

I am delighted to be able to announce that Mrs Chivers is expecting a baby. I am sure that you will all want to join me in sending congratulations for this happy news. Further information regarding class teachers will be shared with parents of children in Beech class in due course.

Meet the Teacher

Usually, we would be inviting parents to a 'Meet the Teacher' session within the first few weeks of term. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we are unable to offer these sessions this year. Teachers will, however, be sending home all the information that they would have shared with you, via email and on the class webpages instead. Watch this space!

In the meantime, if you do have any questions or comments, do please use the class email addresses to contact your child's class teacher or contact the school office in the usual way.

Mobile phones and walking home from school

Some of our older pupils have previously brought mobile phones in to school, and in line with school policy, have handed their mobile phones in to their class teacher at the start of the school day and collected them at the end of the day. As part of our risk assessment, and in order to reduce the potential risk of transmission of Covid-19, it is not possible for that to happen at present. Therefore, for the time being, no child is allowed to bring a mobile phone to school.

There are also some parents of Year Six children who would like their child to walk home from school on their own. Parents would usually send in a note to request this, however we kindly ask that parents email instead. Please note, we will only let children walk home by themselves if we have received written notification from parents.

Vaping and smoking

We have received feedback from some parents about people vaping/smoking outside the school. We kindly ask that parents waiting to drop off or collect their child respect other parents and children, by not vaping directly outside the school site. Thank you for your support with this.

Assemblies

Last week, the children had their very first virtual assembly! I was delighted to lead these assemblies and was able to see the children in their classrooms and they could see me in my office and the other classes in their classrooms. We can't wait until we are all able to get together in the hall again, however in the meantime, to keep us all safe and in line with guidance (as we are not allowed to get together in large groups) we will be leading assemblies remotely. Therefore, we are also unable to invite parents in for assemblies at present. Thank you for your understanding.

Moreover, to support with reducing the potential transmission of Covid-19 between home and school, we will not be providing paper certificates at this time. Parents will receive an email if their child has been awarded the certificate and may choose to print the certificate at home. This will also continue to be the case for Reading certificates which are available on the school website.

Finally, I plan to provide a monthly newsletter together with additional letters throughout the month as required. When the school is able to participate in more of our usual activities and events, the frequency of the newsletter may increase, however we are mindful of the number of communications sent home from school. Do remember, lots of information is available on the school website and we also provide regular updates on the School Facebook page.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs N McMahon

Executive Head Teacher

Upcoming Dates:

w/b 14 th Sept	Meet the teacher information sent out Year group topic overviews on website
Mon 5 th Oct	Home Learning set
Tues 6 th Oct	CPTA AGM
Fri 23 rd Oct	End of Term 1
Mon 2 nd Nov	INSET Day 2
Tues 3 rd Nov	Start of Term 2
Fri 6 th Nov	Home learning due in
w/b Mon 9 th Nov	Remote parents evenings (dates to be confirmed)
Wed 11 th Nov	Remembrance Day Service
Fri 18 th Dec	End of Term 2
Mon 4 th Jan	Start of Term 3

INSET DATES:

The school will be closed to pupils on the following days for staff training:

Monday 1st September 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020

Friday 12th February 2021

Friday 18th June 2021

Wednesday 21st July 2021*

*Please note, this will be a disaggregated INSET date which means the school is closed to staff and pupils. School staff will instead be completing additional twilight sessions through the school year.