

North Elmham CEVA Primary School
Stibbard All Saints CEVA Primary School
Flourish Federation



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Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents/carers

I hope this letter finds you well and that despite all that's going on you can enjoy the June sunshine.

As we approach the final three weeks of term, I just want to update you on a few things.

Partial reopening

Our Governors review on the 19th was thorough. We were aware that the prime minister had announced a no return for all year groups for the last month of school and that the guidelines for schools had not changed. Our school risk assessment follows DfE, Public Health England and Local Authority advice and states no additional movement into existing bubbles and at present we have exhausted all available staff. Therefore, we are unable to accommodate more children at present. Any additional keyworker children provision can be sourced with the help of the local authority though. Should you need this, please get in touch with us.

We have received the following alert today:

"The number of suspected coronavirus outbreaks in schools almost doubled last week, new Public Health England figures show. PHE's weekly COVID-19 surveillance report, shows the number of "acute respiratory outbreaks" in schools rose from 24 to 44 – 16 more outbreaks than were recorded at hospitals. Last week, secondary schools started to welcome back some pupils in year 10 and 12. It was also the third week primary schools reopened to more pupils. While the PHE report stated the rise "coincides with wider school reopening", they pointed out it also follows an "expansion of testing and contact tracing". An outbreak is defined as two or more people experiencing a similar illness, which appears to be linked to a particular setting. The 44 cases last week mark a sharp rise since schools reopened. In the week starting June 1, there were 14 acute respiratory outbreaks, then 24 in the following week. Barring the week before schools opened, the number of suspected outbreaks did not rise above four.

PHE guidance states, as the winter season is left behind and infections like flu become "less prevalent, we would expect most outbreaks in community settings to be related to COVID-19".

Of the 44 outbreaks recorded last week, 23 tested positive, up from 12 confirmed cases in the previous week. Overall, the number of new acute respiratory outbreaks rose from 199 to 223. It means schools made up nearly 20 percent of the outbreaks last week, compared to 12 per cent in the previous week."

This week, the prime minister made further announcements for the general public but that did not change guidelines for schools. You may be aware that other schools' decision making differs to ours however, this is because it's all context related. The response to the COVID-19 public health crisis is evolving and fast moving. We recognise that with social distancing measures in place and the uncertainty of how this crisis will develop over the coming weeks and months, many governors and trustees are asking themselves how they can effectively support their schools. Based on the alert that all schools will return for September, we will prepare for this too before the end of term. If, however, we are not back to normal in September we will revise our plans again. A third plan may be needed also if there is a spike in the autumn term. We have been assured further guidelines about what this may look like will be shared soon. In the meantime, we are ambitious that September will be 'normal' so in order for us to get all the rooms ready in time, the Reception, Year one and Year 6 bubbles will end on Friday 17th July and the key worker bubble will end on Tuesday 21st July.

Hellos and Goodbyes

On Tuesday 14th July we will say hello and welcome our new Stibbard Reception parents, and on Thursday 16th July we will do the same for North Elmham Reception parents both through virtual meetings. Invites for these will come out shortly. Other year group teachers will say goodbye to their current pupils and welcome their new pupils on these dates also. Teachers will make their own arrangements and will let you know of these.

We would like to hold an event for the year 6 leavers before they move on to High School, so we may celebrate their time at primary school. Staff are thinking about how we can do this and we will be in touch with these families very soon. We are also finalising the arrangements for the ending of the year 6 chromebooks scheme and the re-setting of the devices, and again, we provide further information shortly.

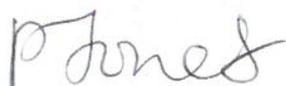
We say a huge thank you and goodbye to Mrs Fleming at North Elmham this term as she wants to switch professions and put something back into the NHS. We wish her tremendous luck.

We have adverts out for Nursery staff, EYFS support staff and we will also be advertising a part time office position too. These can be found on Norfolk educator solutions school's website if you are interested.

I am continually impressed at the way all my staff are managing this situation by prioritising their pupils, when they are in school, carrying out welfare calls and supporting home learning too. Staff are working hard behind the scenes also with zoom meetings, webinars, writing short reports that will come to you on Friday 10th July and with our school curriculum.

In school, it feels safe, happy and settled after what was a tricky beginning for many of us, worrying how we are going to do this. Thank you for your kind comments where you recognise this; it does help. We are human beings first and this situation has had an effect on all of us, both personally and professionally. We are always happy to help and support – do call if you need us for anything. We may not have all the answers, but we are happy to discuss things through with you.

With kind wishes



Ms P Jones,
Executive Headteacher