

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



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Dear Parents/carers

I am writing to you all to update you on our plans for a full opening of both our schools from 7th September. Despite a lot of information for us all to digest, we are looking forward to seeing all children returning to school for what we hope will be a "new normal" school year. However, it is possible that things will change even during the summer holidays as you know it's coronavirus that dictates our life timetables at present!

Our teachers will be re-organising their classrooms next week in readiness for September following the latest guidelines from the Department of Education. This will allow us to welcome all the children back into school although, as you would expect, the classrooms will look different when compared to how they were organised prior to the lockdown in March.

### **Recovery Curriculum**

I first mentioned this to you all in my June letter and staff will be taking this forward in September by recognising all the losses children have experienced during lockdown. For example, loss of opportunity and loss of friendship etc. and how we will address these issues through our curriculum of care and healing. We will create opportunities for our pupils to work together, to socialise with one another and build their resilience so they are emotionally & mentally healthy.

*Using guidance from recent research our Recovery Curriculum will include the 5 R's:*

- 1. Routines - enhance necessary hygiene*
- 2. Relationships - regular circle time*
- 3. Retrieve - provide opportunities for children to bring back that knowledge from the term before lockdown*
- 4. Re-map- look back & look forward, check for understanding, know what can children remember and what are their next steps.*
- 5. Re-Teach - react to those gaps & re teach, review and consolidate as necessary*

We will rebuild learning routines which include, story time, brain breaks, creative & artistic activities, social stories, happiness box and bubble time. Of course our new outdoor learning provision will support pupils' mental health and wellbeing too.

The shocking murder of George Floyd in America has sparked a world-wide reaction that has prompted all educators to reconsider their curriculum, both formal and informal, and its role in developing and challenging the attitudes that pervade in our society. We have updated our school curriculum even more to

include the teaching of Black history. Racism can have no place in our institutions or in the hearts and behaviours of all involved in educating our future generations.

### **Revised Risk Assessments**

We will be continuing with our soft start mornings when we return in September. Please go straight to the rear door of your new classroom and the children will enter, wash their hands and sit at their designated seat. Classrooms are in the same locations as before. Coats will need to go on the back of chairs and children will be given a pencil to write with; please do not allow your child to bring in pencil cases from home.

The bubble sizes are now the whole class. The class bubble must be kept tight and consistent as much as we can. Class bubbles will not mix in the corridors, on the playground nor in the hall. Bubbles will have their own break times and eat lunch in their classrooms. Bubbles have to access PE outdoors and on PE days children can come to school in their outdoor PE kit, so no PE bags in the corridors please.

The new guidelines also state no singing which we know will be difficult and there can be no mixing of year groups for special events. So Wonderful Wednesday, collective worship altogether in the same room, and parent showcases together can't happen yet but we do have some exciting new things happening in the new term which we will tell all the pupils about firstly in September and then yourselves.

Reading books can be sent home but will be quarantined upon return. All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes but they must try to distance from pupils and other staff, ideally 2 metres apart. I have interpreted the part about young children not being able to effectively social distance as being relevant to our Reception and Year 1 pupils. For years 2-6, children will be sitting at the same desk every day. In accordance with the new guidelines, all desks will face the front, seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face.

We are not staggering entrance and exit times as we have many siblings, and many children arriving by buses and taxis too. I am confident that by using many entrance and exit doors, we can get children into school straight away safely and keep parents safe provided that you leave swiftly and don't linger on site. Parents are not to go near nor enter the school building please (sadly even parents of new Reception pupils). Please email or phone the school office to communicate with us if you need to. The school day will finish at the usual time of 3.00 pm. Whilst you wait to collect your child, please use all the space to stand at a safe distance from others, including the grass areas at the front of Stibbard school. Children will exit from their class rear door.

### **After School Clubs and Breakfast Clubs**

Thank you to all the families who have booked their children into the breakfast and after school clubs in readiness for September. Both clubs will be held in the Nursery building as previously and will be supported by our new Nursery team. Whilst the guidelines suggest keeping the different ages of children apart, we do not have enough available rooms or staff in order to make this a viable option, so the children will be in the same rooms as before. We know there are many families who are in need of wrap-around childcare in order to return to work so we have decided to proceed on this basis to support these families.

We will endeavour to adhere to social distancing measures as best we can and will encourage the children to follow these. We would ask that you also enforce this message at home if you wish to use both clubs.

### **School Transport**

Norfolk County Council are currently looking at how they can provide school transport from September, and they will have further information for the relevant families in due course. The information we have at the moment is as follows:

- the overall risk to children from coronavirus (COVID-19) is low

- home to school transport often carries the same group of children on a regular basis, and those children may also be together in school
- contact will be minimised with individuals who are unwell
- students, drivers and passenger assistants should wash their hands or use hand sanitiser before boarding transport and when arriving at school or home
- close contact between different groups of students and other passengers will be minimised as much as possible
- if there is a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, then it will be easy to identify who was travelling on which vehicle so we can comply with contact tracing, isolation and testing

### **Dedicated school transport**

The DfE have already stated that social distancing guidance which is in place for public transport will not apply to dedicated school transport. This is because they will be sharing a vehicle with others from their own school and will not share with general members of the public. Therefore, we will load students to the normal capacity but:

- we will ask students to sit together based on their year group, and where capacity allows we will leave a row of seats between each year group
- we won't use face to face seating
- we will ask transport providers to keep the windows open, where possible
- we will promote good hand and respiratory hygiene – your help with this would be appreciated.

### **Compulsory attendance**

In March, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we advised families that they would not be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. The guidelines for September have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Some of you may have extreme circumstances and, of course, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if we can support you with these. School attendance is therefore mandatory again and the usual school rules on attendance will apply, including;

- parents have a duty to ensure their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' policy.

### **Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating**

We now know much more about Covid-19 than we did at the start of the pandemic. Some pupils are no longer required to shield but those who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September. You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

### **Summer Holiday**

We have also received queries around summer provision. If any parents are looking for childcare over the summer holidays, please contact Norfolk Community Directory <https://communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk/>. You can filter and customise your search to look for **Holiday Playschemes** in your preferred location. You can click on providers' records to view their details and childcare vacancies this summer holiday. The Directory is updated daily by Family Information as they receive information from providers about their childcare offer this summer. For further support parents can contact Family Information at [fis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:fis@norfolk.gov.uk). I hope this is helpful for you.

### **Staffing**

Miss Harwin has decided to leave Stibbard at the end of the Summer term. She has asked me to pass-on her best wishes to parents and pupils. We send her our best wishes and wish her every success for the

future. We welcome Mr Josh Arter who will be our Year 1 class teacher from September. Other new appointments to our Stibbard Nursery are Mrs Sue Daniels as our Nursery Manager, Miss Georgia Tabor as Nursery Deputy and Mrs Emma Savory as Nursery assistant. Wonderfully, they all know one another so the team is there already!

At North Elmham, we welcome Mrs Rachel Pattison who is an experienced practitioner from a Norwich school who will support Mrs Gkikopoulos with Sheep class.

### **Wellbeing**

Sadly, I have been informed there is a range of confectionary available that contain a **psychoactive drug** which children are consuming and cases of adverse effects are being presented at A&E, they look like this:



Just like physical health, we all have mental health and we are committed to supporting emotional wellbeing. It is high on our agenda. We have tried our best to support the adults and children we have in our schools in response to this crisis. We are not experts, but we have engaged in training and CPD. Myself and my staff are committed to the CARE principles. The principles are; be Curious - look out for signs of stress. Be Approachable- and listen carefully to concerns and if we need to, Refer- refer matters to mental health professionals. Show Empathy, we don't want you to feel you are alone in your angst.

We have come to the end of a most extraordinary school year. It has been challenging for us in many ways since the start of the pandemic, and we know many of you have had a very uncertain and challenging time too for various reasons. Our thoughts are with you all and although we are not in the building we are contactable. Please know you can also contact <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/> or phone 0300 300 0123 for advice and support anytime. This pandemic reminds me of the story; 'Going on a bear hunt' You can't go under it, you can't go over it, you have to go through it.

Myself and all our staff with the Flourish Federation would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to our departing pupils and families. Good luck to you all and I wish you all a very restful summer break. Thank you for the support you have given the school during the last few months and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school in September.

Stay safe everyone.

Kind wishes

Ms P Jones  
Executive head teacher