



Cogenhoe
Primary School

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Mrs C Oldham

INSPIRE. ASPIRE. ACHIEVE

Date: Monday 31st August 2020

<http://cogenhoe.northants.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents and Carers,

It only feels like minutes ago when I was writing to you all before we broke up for the summer holidays- I hope you have all had a lovely summer? We are very much looking forward to welcoming **all** of our lovely children back to school; it really does feel like a return to some sort of normality. Every year group will be starting from **Thursday 2nd September** apart from our Reception children who will be starting a little later on.

Alongside this letter, I have attached the information document which was emailed out to all parents last term, as a reminder - It is very comprehensive and I would urge you all to read it please. In addition to this, I have also attached a letter directly from the Government for your perusal. I do hope that you find both of these documents useful. The following online document has also been produced for parents by the government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

As always, the school will continue to respond to the changing Government guidance and initiatives and will continue to share any new information/ changes/ updates with you as soon as we can. Please ensure that you are checking your emails on a regular basis for any updates. I will continue to write my Friday, weekly newsletter which is emailed to all parents and saved onto the school website.

The majority of the information below was communicated prior to the holidays in July but just in case you have forgotten or mislaid that information, this email is to remind you of the key aspects.

Risk Assessment

As per the document shared with you, we have rigorous systems and procedures in place based on the most up to date government recommendations. Although there is no such thing as a completely risk free environment, we will do everything we can to maximise the safety of children, staff and parents. I fully understand that you or your children may feel nervous, especially if you have not returned to school to date. Please contact the school if this is the case and I will be more than happy to talk through your concerns. We are ready to support any children who may be anxious on the first day and will do everything we can to ensure a smooth transition back to school. I am sure many will be very excited about the return (adults and children alike!)

Can I please reiterate, that under no circumstances (unless a pre-arranged meeting has been booked) parents or visitors should not be entering the school site or coming to the school office. Please either telephone, email or post in order to communicate with the office staff. We will of course let you all know if and when we are able to ease these restrictions. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



★ **Attendance**

★ Attendance from Thursday is compulsory for all children unless there is a medical need, your child is unwell
★ or a member of your family has COVID symptoms. Please note that the attendance requirement does not
★ apply to Reception children until they are expected to be in school full time.

★ **School 'Bubbles'**

★ Children will be taught in their usual class year groups and these will be the new 'bubbles'. We will
★ endeavour to reduce any interaction or crossover between these bubbles.
★ Classrooms will be kept ventilated and doors left open where health and safety and the British weather
★ permits! All children from Years 2 - 6 will be assigned chairs and desks that are spaced as far apart as
★ possible. Where possible, all desks will be front facing. There will be a hand sanitising station inside every
★ classroom.

★ **Drop off and Pick up**

★ This will be staggered and will therefore alter the school day timings slightly. Please refer to the document
★ for your specific timings. I would ask that you please respect these drop off times and do not arrive early or
★ late so we can evenly distribute the flow of people in and out of the school. To minimise the number of
★ adults on the premises, we would ask that only one parent or carer brings the children to school

★ If you have more than one child in the school, you may drop and pick them **all** up at the same time in order
★ to reduce the 'traffic' through the school. Please ensure that you notify the school office / class teacher of
★ which time you will be using if you haven't done so already.

★ If you require an earlier drop off, you can book onto our early morning club from 8.30am. Children will
★ need to enter through the main school entrance for this. The children will go straight to their classrooms
★ from here. Alternatively, the school breakfast club, run by Mr Perry is open from 7.30am.

★ We would, of course, ask that you observe social distancing when entering and exiting the school premises.
★ If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please speak to the school office in the first instance. We
★ will be able to offer phone and Zoom calls home and email correspondence, as usual.

★ **Reception children**

★ Miss Noble and the Reception team are very much looking forward to visiting you all over the coming
★ weeks for your doorstep visit!

★ You are more than welcome to stay with your child in the outdoor area for as long as you wish in order to
★ settle them in, during the first few drop offs. Siblings can be collected together.

★ **Parking**

★ Now that all children are back in school, the area around the school is likely to become more congested,
★ although staggered start and end times should help. Please can I ask that you park responsibly in the area
★ around the school and, where possible, walk to school or park your car away from the school and walk up.

★ **Wrap Round Care and extra-curricular provision**

★ We are pleased to say that we will be able to offer Breakfast and After School Club provisions once again
★ from 7.30am until 6pm, from Thursday 3rd September. Both provisions will need to be booked with a
★ minimum of 24 hours' notice. The After School Club can be booked via the online school money system
★ and the breakfast club needs to be booked directly through the school office, by returning your form to





We will be particularly vigilant about children being ill or, in particular, showing signs of COVID 19. Any child showing signs of coronavirus will need to be tested and we will insist that they do not come back into school unless they have a negative test result. Any children who have a positive test will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days and their family for 14 days. If there are any cases confirmed in school, we will contact Public Health England who will advise us on the next stages. A rapid risk assessment will be carried out and we will then be provided with definitive advice regarding who should be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. This may be the whole school or a specific bubble.

PPE

We will not be asking children or adults to wear face masks in school. Current Government guidelines do not recommend the use of face coverings in primary schools. It also points out that misuse of a mask may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission and that there may be negative effects on communication and therefore education. We will obviously keep this situation under review and respond to any further government updates. Staff will have the use of PPE if they are looking after a sick child and may choose to use it if carrying out intimate care.

Uniform

We will be returning to our normal uniform policy and therefore we expect children to be wearing full school uniform on their return to school in September. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way than normal due to Coronavirus.

For our children in **Reception**, we would like to aim for all children to be wearing shirts by the end of the school year in order to prepare them for Year 1. Therefore, if you have already purchased polo shirts for your child to wear, this is absolutely fine. If you are able to have your child wearing a shirt from day one, this would be preferable though. Our apologies for any confusion with this matter.

That is a lot of information for a return to school letter! Please get in touch if you need any further clarification or reassurance. As I have said, we are really looking forward to seeing all year groups back at the same time. Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure the return to school is as smooth as possible. The social and emotional aspects of your children's development is a central part of our initial teaching. We are here to support your child (and you!) with all aspects of the return.

Enjoy the last long couple of days of your holidays and I look forward to seeing you all at the school gate - socially distanced of course!

Take care,

Mrs Oldham

