

Cogenhoe Primary School ☆ York Avenue ☆ Cogenhoe 🔯 Northants NN7 1NB Telephone/Fax: 01604 890380 ☆

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★Mrs C Oldham

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## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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-aboutearly-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-andcarers-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**

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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 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.

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### **★**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.

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### **☆School 'Bubbles'**

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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.

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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

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★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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 ★

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☆lynn.perry@cogenhoeprimary.org please. If you would like any further information, please do contact the school office directly.

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Unfortunately both the breakfast and After School Club will not be able to accept walk ins on the day. We will maintain the school bubbles during wrap around care by 'zoning' areas of the hall. Each bubble will have their own area and children, where possible, will not mix. Food will be provided but will be prepared ★ahead and served directly to the children along with their cutlery, if needed.

★ At least until half term, there will be minimum extra-curricular clubs (offered to certain year groups only) on ★ ★offer and no sporting fixtures as this is very difficult to achieve without the mixing of bubbles. We will keep ☆this under review and when the threat of COVID is low enough, we will resume as many extra-curricular activities as possible.

Where you are using other out of school activities, we would encourage you to seek assurance that these providers are carefully considering their own protective measures and that you only use those providers that ☆ can demonstrate this.

### **☆**The Curriculum $\frac{1}{2}$

On our return in September, we are planning to offer a full, broad and balanced curriculum. The guidance is very clear that the school arrangements, in terms of classes and bubble groupings, should be compatible with offering a full range of lessons and activities. PE will be scheduled across the school to avoid sharing apparatus or PE equipment. Contact sports will not be played.

★ It is possible that teachers and other staff will operate across different bubbles in order to facilitate the ★ delivery of the school timetable. Where this happens, social distancing will be maintained and rigorous hand ☆hygiene followed.

Please do ensure that you utilise and read all of the information that class teachers have prepared for you on the class pages section on the school website. Here you can view your child's timetable and curriculum map for the term, alongside the set homework tasks. Please ensure that children come to school already dressed in their PE kit on the days that they will have PE. If you are not sure when your child's PE days ☆ are, please check all of the information in your welcome pack on the class pages on the school website.

### **☆**Hygiene

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Robust hand and respiratory hygiene, alongside enhanced cleaning, is a key part of our return to school. Children will be required to sanitise their hands on entry to the school and at regular points during the day. Hand sanitising stations will be set up in every classroom as well as in all areas accessed by children and ☆adults. Hand washing and good hygiene will be actively promoted and taught across the school. We will also ☆ be ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with tissues and ★have bought pedal bins for tissues which will be emptied twice daily. Where children, particularly the ☆younger members of our school, require support with this we will, of course, be there to help them. Classroom surfaces that are regularly touched will be cleaned throughout the day and all classrooms will have a box of cleaning supplies. There will, as usual, be a thorough clean at the end of the school day.

### Resources and equipment

All groups will have their own sets of equipment to avoid sharing of resources between bubbles. We will ★ make up packs of stationary, pens, pencils etc that will not be shared.

★We recommend that children limit the amount of equipment they bring into school to essentials such as hats, coats, lunch boxes where required and book bags.

The guidelines now specify that we can share equipment between bubbles as long as it has been thoroughly cleaned or quarantined for 48 hours. This will apply to reading books. When you return a reading or library book, it will be quarantined for 48 hours and then put back into circulation. This will apply to any resources ☆shared between home and school.

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### **☆Illness**

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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 ask 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.

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# <sup>★</sup>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

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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 gatesocially distanced of course!

**☆**Take care,

☆Mrs Oldham











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