



'Aiming High
Together'

Calow Church of England (V.C.) Primary School
North Road Calow Chesterfield Derbyshire S44 5BD
Headteacher: Mr D. Sumner



Newsletter

9th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very positive start to the new school year, as we all adjust to the changed circumstances due to Coronavirus. It has been lovely to have all the children back with us – happy, engaged and eager to learn. Classrooms have been buzzing and the additional precautions we are taking to reduce the risks in school are going well.

Please continue to help us in the following ways:

- Do not arrive early for your child's staggered start and finish times
- Do not arrive late
- Avoid standing around outside school – if you have to, keep 2 metres away from others and don't block the paths
- Keep your child close to you, before and after school – do not let them run around and play with others
- Use the one-way system: in through the pedestrian gate; out through the car park gate
- Follow the updated Government guidance out of school, including taking note of any national or local changes
- Do not send a child in who has a cough, temperature or loss of smell/taste – if they have any of these symptoms, keep them away from others and take them for a test; if anyone in their household has symptoms, children must also stay away until a negative test result is received

Thank you all!

Daniel Sumner
Headteacher



A reminder of our remaining INSET days (when school is closed to pupils), which we published back in February:

Friday 23rd October 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020

Thursday 1st April 2021

Friday 28th May 2021

We will send home a separate letter next week about a new app (+Pay by Parent Mail) which will make it easy to order school dinners, and make **payments by card** for meals, trips, book bags, etc. Please read it carefully and return the attached slip, so that we can set up the system. Thank you.

We have had **no** positive Coronavirus cases in school. A few children and staff have had to stay at home with symptoms and take a test (all of which have been negative), and a few others have had to stay away because a family member has symptoms. We are grateful for everyone's cooperation in following the guidance, keeping us informed, doing the right thing and keeping everyone safe! If we are notified of a positive case in the future, we will follow all Department for Education and Public Health England advice and keep you informed.

When the Government announced that they would be continuing with Primary School Sports Funding for this year, we decided to invest in a lot of additional **sports and play equipment** to keep children active at outside, especially in light of Coronavirus restrictions. So far this year, we have purchased:

- three basketball hoops
- mini goals
- tennis rackets
- balance beams
- ring toss game
- hundreds of balls
- curling game
- tyres and balancing planks
- tin can alley game
- targets
- steps
- nerf howlers
- hoppers



Each class can also select from equipment in the PE store, which they then keep in their designated box for the week to reduce the risk of spreading the virus across bubbles. We will keep listening to requests and suggestions from the school council, so that we can enhance our outdoor play equipment even further. We are also training our mid-day supervisors and teaching assistants as play leaders, to develop their ability to encourage and facilitate active playtimes.



We lodged an immediate complaint about the inappropriate and dangerous timing of the **bin collection** at the end of the school day on 8th October, and have received an apology and an assurance that no refuse lorry will ever again attempt to access the site around pick-up time.



We participated in the **Big Anti-Bullying Assembly**, on Monday 28th September, which was a national online initiative involving lots of celebrities and thousands of schools. Children discussed bullying in their classes, at an age-appropriate level, and reminded themselves of what bullying is, how we can and must stop it, and how to get help. Please encourage your children to talk to a trusted adult if they ever feel they are being treated unkindly by anyone.

We will be offering **Remembrance poppies** in school again this year, and will adjust the way we distribute them (within class bubbles, and after quarantining them for 72 hours) to make sure there is no additional risk of infection. When they are ready, we will let you know so that you can make a donation if you wish your child to wear a poppy.



We are well underway with our **parents' consultation phone calls**, and many of you have appointments booked for the next couple of weeks. Please remember that if you have any concerns or issues at other times, we are still here for you, and still want to keep the lines of communication open. If you have a query, please get in touch with the office by phone or email, and we may be able to help straight away. If you need to speak to your child's teacher or the Headteacher about something, you can request a call back.

As cases are rising rapidly around the country, including in our area, please continue to follow all Coronavirus guidance with your family outside of school hours. Please pay attention to any changes and additional restrictions that may come into force, either nationally or locally. In particular, if you are going abroad over half term, please follow foreign office advice and double check the rules at the time you return, to see whether you need to quarantine. If you are ever in any doubt about the rules and guidance, especially around self-isolation, please get in touch and we will try to help.

Thank you, and very best wishes.