



Headteacher
Mr. Dale Bateman

Thursday 7th May 2020

RE: Communication with families

Dear Parents,

We have received quite a few emails from parents with feedback about home learning. Please be assured we have taken on board all the feedback parents have given us and asked staff to adapt where possible. As I'm sure you can imagine, setting work online that matches the individual needs of 190 students is an impossible task. With the current situation, schools cannot continue to run as they normally would and this includes our ability to mark or review how every student is progressing during the lessons.

We understand that some local schools may be using video lessons, but I can assure you that the majority of our 20 plus local schools that we have direct partnerships with are not – and are not for good reasons. We have assessed the impact of these video lessons through direct experience by staff who have their own children at schools using video, as well as guidance from respected authorities and educational partners of our school. We have also been advised very clearly by Teaching and Headteacher Unions that staff are not to undertake video lessons from home. Some of you may not be pleased with this decision – however, the school leadership team are doing what we know is best for our community, including families and staff, and our judgement is based on sound experiences and research.

Our teachers really do miss all the children and communication between School and home is absolutely paramount for us. With this in mind, **going live on Monday 11th May**, we have decided to set up individual class emails where parents/pupils and teachers can write to each other if they have any concerns regarding the Home Learning. Previously, you would have emailed admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk, now your email will start with your class name e.g. Year1maple@ or Year6oak@ instead of admin@. We felt this is a great way to encourage our children to write to their teachers directly and ask them any questions about the learning or write to their teacher about what they have been doing at home. Of course, the email allows parents and teachers to communicate too, regarding home learning. We are also encouraging pupils to share photos/scans/images of any learning they have completed at home via email, this can include artwork or anything creative. At all times, the school expects a parent to oversee any emails sent by children and to read any emails from the teacher, even if attention is for your child to read. This is to safeguard our pupils and staff, keeping in line with the school's, Online Safety, Staff Code of Conduct and Child Protection policies.

If we could also ask parents to refrain from emailing staff outside school hours (8.30am-4.00pm) and understand that parents will never receive a response outside these hours as staff will not be checking emails and must be given time to respond in line with our school policy. This is also to support the wellbeing of our staff at home.

We also ask that you do not send any photos of children to safeguard our teachers as well as our children. Please do use your class email as a form of support and contact us if you feel we

can help in anyway. For all other communication to the school, please continue to email via: admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk

We will also be changing some of the online activities (remote learning support) so that the whole school undertake the same task. This is in response to some families who only have access to one device, shared between more than one child/adults too – making multiple learning activities at the same time almost impossible!

Our teachers are really looking forward to hearing from your children and will be saving all your letters and artwork for a 'Welcome Back' display! From Monday onwards, your child's class teacher will make contact via the class email to the primary email account the school has been given. We kindly ask that you respond to the first email. Of course, from Monday, you can send emails from any address to the class email.

Finally, I'd like to thank any of our community who are Key Workers, supporting the country's efforts in keeping everyone safe and well.

Here is a list of the new class email addresses:

Receptionclass@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk (Miss Luck)

Year1maple@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk (Miss Hill)

Year2willow@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk (Miss Edwards)

Year3ash@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk (Miss Marbe)

Year3aspen@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk (Miss Usher)

Year4beech@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk (Miss Collin)

Year5sycamore@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk (Mrs Gardiner)

Year6oak@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk (Miss Kendell)

Kind Regards

Mrs Atwal

Deputy Headteacher and Curriculum Lead