



9th October 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We are very pleased with how the past 5 and a half weeks have gone, with the children settling in really well back to school to all the new routines. Behaviour has been very good throughout the school and lots of exciting learning has been taking place.

Covid-19

Whilst it has been successful, there have been several challenges for us as school that we have had to deal with. We would like to remind parents that we are working under many restrictions and that trying to operate 'as normal' is very challenging. Just like everyone else in the population, staff members are subject to self-isolation and Track and Trace. In the past 5 and a half weeks we have had 3 members of staff who have had to self-isolate due to Track and Trace. Fortunately, none have tested positive for Covid-19 themselves. I, myself, had to self-isolate and was working from home for 2 weeks after a family member tested positive. When these occurrences take place we follow all the NHS, Public Health England, Suffolk County Council and our own school guidance and procedures. Parents will be informed if staff themselves test positive and there is the need for children to self-isolate. Unfortunately, as cases are on the rise both locally and nationally, I am sure that there will be further incidents for staff needing to self-isolate which will impact different classes at various times.

Remote Learning and Self-isolation

If an individual child is required to self-isolate (because they or a family member has symptoms, or due to Track and Trace) the school will provide remote learning for them from the next day. This will be emailed home by the class teacher, who will try to match what they are learning in class as much as possible. Children who are ill, either with Covid-19 or coughs and colds, will not be provided work, as has always been the case.

When a whole class has to self-isolate due to a positive case in school (or in the event of a local lockdown), home learning will also be set by the class teacher. If this is the case, the teacher will ensure that there is a live element every day, so that the children maintain contact with them and each other. There will also be videos to help with the learning. I will let you know when we have published our remote learning policy, that will go into more detail about our arrangements.

Catch up/Tutoring

The government National Tutoring Programme is a scheme where schools can access heavily discounted tutors for disadvantaged pupils only. This programme is not up and running yet and we will be given more information about it by the Department for Education in November, which we will pass on to parents. Catch-up funding: the government has pledged £80 per pupil for the year in catch-up funding. This is not to be spent directly on each pupil, but by the school as a whole however we think it can be best spent. Some of this funding we will be spending on children taking part in the National Tutoring Programme. Some may be spent on extra resources to support catch-up learning and some on extra staff hours.

Drop off/Pick Up times

We really appreciate everyone wearing masks on site. However, it does sometimes make it hard for teachers to identify who is picking up a child, especially if it not the usual adult. If someone else is picking up your child, please inform the teacher in advance on Class Dojo or contact the school office.

In the morning we request that children stand with their parents, rather than playing on the playground or school steps. Years 5 and 6 should also wait outside the classroom.



Dogs

Dogs are not permitted on site, including outside Years 1 and 2, unless they can be carried.

Staff Changes

We are sad to say that Mrs Rudd, Early Years Learning Support Assistant, finished working at the school in August. We appreciate her work here at the school and wish her well.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Fenty to the Year 2 team from Monday 12th October; we have also had Mrs Bailey, who is working in Year 4, join the school team during Lockdown.

Birthdays

Unfortunately, we cannot accept cakes into school for birthdays. However, individual packets of sweets can be brought in, as long as they are in a bigger packet (e.g. individual Haribo packets in a larger bag). If you wish to have a sugar-free alternative, children could donate a book to the class for them to enjoy.

Parents Evening Feedback

We were pleased that so many parents signed up for Parents Evening and have had good feedback about the system. I would be very grateful if you could complete the following quick survey to help us make it even better next time: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/QXERP3/>

Parent Governor

We are currently looking for another parent governor to help make decisions about the strategic direction of the school. If you are interested and would like further information please email the current Chair of Governors, Georgina Ager at g.ager@newcangle.co.uk or speak to myself for further information.

Harvest

As it is Harvest time, we would like to do a food collection again for Reach Community Projects. If you are able, please send in any of the items below (from Monday until half-term) which we will pass on. Further information can also be found at:

<https://www.reachhaverhill.org.uk/Groups/328283/Harvest.aspx?redirected=1>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, either in person before school, or by Class Dojo, email or a phone call.

Yours faithfully,

Ms J Brading
Headteacher

Food Donations Needed:

We gratefully accept any of the items listed below:

Need:	Not Needed:
Sponge Pudding	Beans
Sugar	Pasta
Instant Mash Potato	Cereal
Tinned Fruit	Biscuits
Tinned Vegetables	Sanitary products
Tinned Meat	Baby products
Cartons of Fruit Juice	Dog / Cat food