

4th April 2020



School Closure Update and Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first two weeks of our national lockdown and school closure are over and I am sure that for all of us it has been a time of significant adjustment as we learn to cope with the new way of life and living day to day in very different circumstances. I hope that you are all keeping safe and well and are beginning to find some sense of balance in juggling your work, your children's home learning, family life and social distancing, which is certainly not easy. Remembering to take care of our mental health in these challenging times is also very important for us all. Help can be found by visiting [Mental health and well-being during the coronavirus outbreak](#).

Home Learning – Year Blogs

I hope that your child has been able to access the learning activities provided on the primary year blogs on the school website. You can find the blog for your child's year group by clicking on the following link: <https://www.ccs.northants.sch.uk/primary-blogs/>.

During term time, the primary blogs are updated on a weekly basis with learning activities focused on English and maths to support core skills, together with a range of wider curriculum topics, activities and ideas supported by on-line resources. If you experience internet issues, please try again at another time as, unsurprisingly, our area seems to be experiencing difficulties with the connections and speed at present. Please do not worry if you have not managed to complete all the learning activities provided. Our advice is to find a daily routine/schedule that works for your child and your family. This approach to home learning is not formal schooling and don't forget that each family can include their own interests, skills and ideas in the learning – so feel free to get creative and inventive and enjoy learning with your child. Some parents have asked how much time should be spent on completing the home learning. There are no set rules but as a guide, 2/3 hours a day, depending on the age of your child, organised into manageable chunks, is sufficient. Above all, remember to balance the expectation of schoolwork and simply having fun together.

Do take advantage of the school Easter break over the next two weeks and enjoy your family time together. Over the holiday period, weekly work will not be set on the primary blogs except for a few activities such as reading, times-tables and Easter related activities. Please revisit the blog for your child's year group on April 20th for details of the new term's weekly home learning. If you wish to contact us to discuss any matters related to home learning, please email either the primary office on primaryoffice@ccs.northants.sch.uk or Mrs Cairns on ncairns@ccs.northants.sch.uk.

School Provision for Key Workers and Vulnerable Students

The school continues to be open to a limited number of children who require a school place under the Government key worker and vulnerable pupil provision scheme. If you are a key worker or a parent of a vulnerable child, you should now be receiving a booking form each week to allow you to book a school place for the following week. If you are not receiving this, or if you still need to register as a key worker with the school to gain access to the online booking form, please contact the primary office by email on primaryoffice@ccs.northants.sch.uk.

Secondary: 01604 669200 **Primary:** 01604 669210 **Website:** www.ccs.northants.sch.uk

Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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The Wooldale Centre for Learning, Wootton Fields, Northampton NN4 6TP

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UFSM) – Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils

During the period of school closure, the Government funded 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' daily lunches for pupils in Foundation Stage and KS1 will not be provided. If you are a key worker accessing a school place for your FS / KS1 child, you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch when they are in school.

Parents of all pupils in receipt of benefits-related 'Free School Meals' (FSM) will have received a letter explaining how they can access their entitlement to FSM supermarket vouchers. If you have been financially affected by the coronavirus, you may now qualify for free school meals. Click on the following link to find out about eligibility and how to apply:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolmeals>.

School Activity Refunds

Refunds for school activities, educational visits and trips are being processed but parents should be aware that refunds to your bank account are not automatic. Once the money has been credited to your ParentPay account, you will need to login to ParentPay to withdraw the money to your bank account. Instructions on how to do this, can be found here: <https://www.parentpay.com/how-do-i-withdraw-money-my-account/>. Thank you for your patience as this lengthy process is completed. If you require any help with accessing your ParentPay account you should contact the primary office using the email address given above.

Amidst the uncertainty of the coming days and weeks ahead, it has been so encouraging to see and hear of the wonderful things that our children are getting involved in from the feedback we have received from parents. Yesterday, our school donated all the safety goggles that we could find on-site to our local hospital in support of the NHS – it is good to know that we can also play a small part in helping to save lives.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to extend my gratitude to all our parents who are critical workers involved in providing life-saving and essential services in these unprecedented times. I would also like to thank the staff for their commitment to serving the community by caring so creatively for our children who need to be in school at this time. And finally, thank you to all our parents for everything that you are doing to help and support our primary age children with the huge adjustment to learning at home and being away from their friends and normal school routines.

Stay safe and keep well.

Yours sincerely,



Katherine Patterson
Vice Principal
Caroline Chisholm School