

Primary Matters

News and Information from Primary Phase - Friday 23rd October 2020

Vice Principal's Message

Welcome to the first edition of our new look, Primary Matters newsletter. This communication to primary parents will be in addition to our all-through 'School Matters Newsletter'. In this newsletter, we will include updates from Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2, good news stories and other useful information. If there's something you'd like us to include in future newsletters or something you'd like to hear more about, please do let us know.

It has been wonderful to have all our children back in school again! The start of this academic year has been like no other and has presented us with challenging situations; however, I am so pleased and proud of the way that everyone has adapted so quickly to the hygiene and safety measures we have in place. As cases of COVID-19 are on the rise, both locally and nationally, we will continue to keep parents informed. As we move into the colder weather, hands may start to suffer from frequent washing. If your child shows signs of dry or cracked hands, please ensure you are applying a suitable moisturiser both in the morning and in the evening.

We have received many positive comments about the drop-off zone and walking bus, and the staggered starts all seem to be working very well. I'd like to thank parents once again for your ongoing support and patience in helping operations to run smoothly.

Talking with parents at morning drop-off, I am pleased to hear that you have found the MS Teams virtual video calls easy to access. The office hotline has been busy in helping with any connection issues as we are all getting used to the new way of doing things digitally.

We have made it to the end of term without closing any bubbles — thank you for your support! I hope that everyone has a happy and safe half-term holiday.

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Katharine Pugh



Big Health & Happiness Week

This year, Big Health & Happiness week has looked a little different but we have still had a lot of fun doing many exciting activities. This year we have played cricket, done orienteering, practiced mindfulness, built dens, planted bee bombs and had a virtual disco with Nicky from Nicky Fancy Faces, to name but a few. Don't forget to complete as many of the big 50 challenge activities over half term as you can!





Dates for your Diary



School closes - Half term holiday

Teacher training day

School reopens

Year 1 Victorian Day

Children in Need non-uniform day

CCS Friends Virtual Disco - FS/KS1

CCS Friends Virtual Disco - KS2

Primary school photos (further information to follow)

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Tuesday 3rd November

Thursday 12th November

Friday 13th November

Wednesday 18th November

Friday 20th November

Friday 27th November

Virtual Parents' Evening

We'd like to say a huge thank you for the very many positive comments that we received following our virtual parents' evening appointments. We were all apprehensive about our new way of carrying out this very important landmark in the school calendar; we are very pleased to say that it ran, for the most part, very smoothly with a staggering 75% of parents choosing to have a video appointment. Lots of parents seemed to be very happy to be able to talk to their teacher from the comfort of their own home!

*The CCS values for next term are **Respect & Gratitude**.*

Extra-Curricular Clubs

As you will be aware, we have been unable to run any of our extra-curricular clubs this term due to restrictions on indoor sports and difficulties in maintaining socially distanced bubbles.

We are now starting to think our way around the current government guidelines to try to recommence clubs for children in one way or another.

We will start with running a limited amount of clubs for children in Year 5 / 6. Once these are up and running, we will then build up our clubs programme to include other year groups.

Once we have the final details, a further communication will be sent out to parents of children in those year groups.

Collection / Drop Off Safety

When collecting your children at the end of the school day, please can you ensure that you keep all your children with you. We have had a number of occasions where younger children are not being properly supervised and are being left to run around the pathways and trample on the shrubbery. Scooters and bikes should not be ridden once you are on the school grounds. **Can you please also ensure that you are maintaining social distancing while waiting in the queue at the beginning and the end of the day.**

Uniform

One of the protection measures we are using to ensure the safety of our children and staff is to maintain good ventilation in the classrooms and around school. This might mean that, during the cooler months, your child will need additional layers under their uniform, e.g. a vest, tights etc.



We would also recommend the purchase of a CCS fleece from The Schoolwear Shop. Children can wear their logoed fleece both in the classroom, and as an extra layer over their PE jumper for outdoor PE lessons. You can also buy a pre-loved fleece from CCS Friends.

As the cooler months approach, please ensure

that you send your child to school wearing a warm, waterproof coat and suitable, sturdy outdoor footwear. In the winter, they should also bring with them a hat and gloves to keep them warm.



Please make sure that ALL items are fully labelled. It is virtually impossible to reunite an item with the correct child if we cannot tell who it belongs to!

| Year Group | Entrance/Exit Gate | Arrival time | Start of day | End of day |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Reception | Main Green Gate | 8:20 | 8:30 | 2:50 |
| Year 1 | Main Green Gate | 8:30 | 8:40 | 3:00 |
| Year 2 | Emergency Gate | 8:30 | 8:40 | 3:00 |
| Year 3 | Main Green Gate | 8:40 | 8:50 | 3:10 |
| Year 4 | Emergency Gate | 8:40 | 8:50 | 3:10 |
| Year 5 | Main Green Gate | 8:50 | 9:00 | 3:20 |
| Year 6 | Emergency Gate | 8:50 | 9:00 | 3:20 |

Staggered arrival, start and end times for each primary year group

Attendance

Missing out on time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. Although the rules for attending school were relaxed over the lockdown period, school attendance is now mandatory again. This means the usual rules on school attendance apply:

Parents must ensure that if their child is of compulsory school age, their child regularly attends the school at which they are registered.

School's responsibilities are to record attendance and follow up absence.

Fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct may be issued.

If your child is due to be absent for any reason, e.g. medical appointment, please give the Primary Office as much notice as possible so that teachers can plan for this absence and it doesn't disrupt other pupils in the class.

If your child is going to be absent, please report this to the Primary Office using one of the following methods, as soon as possible and each morning before your child's school start time:

- Text 01604 420132 with details of your child's full name, class, reason for absence and expected date of return.
- Call the Primary Office (please leave a voicemail if we are busy) on 01604 669210.
- Email SC9284005a@Schoolcomms.com each morning of the absence.

Lateness

Unfortunately, we still have a number of pupils who are persistently late coming into school.

When pupils arrive late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of academic ability. Your child may also feel awkward arriving to the classroom when everyone else is settled. Furthermore, when one pupil arrives late, it disrupts the entire class and the teacher.

While an occasional late mark can sometimes be unavoidable, please can parents make every effort to ensure that their child arrives at their allocated arrival time so that they are in the classroom, ready to learn, once the register has been taken.

Any child who is not in their classroom, ready to learn by their 'Start of day' time will be marked as "Late" on the register and persistent late marks will be followed up.



CCS Friends

Due to COVID-19, we have been unable to run many of our usual fundraising initiatives to raise money for school. This money is vital for the school as it allows them to run projects and purchase refunds that a normal budget would not allow for.

Recent purchases by the CCS Friends include a 3D Printer, photography studio lighting, outdoor play equipment and artificial grass for the primary phase playground.

Please look out for flyers about our upcoming Christmas fundraisers along with details about our online pre-loved uniform sale and other new CCS Friends fundraising initiatives.

To contact CCS Friends, email:

friends@ccs.northants.sch.uk

Chartwells

After some initial teething problems, Chartwells have now settled in as our new catering provider. The new, extended winter menu will be available very soon.

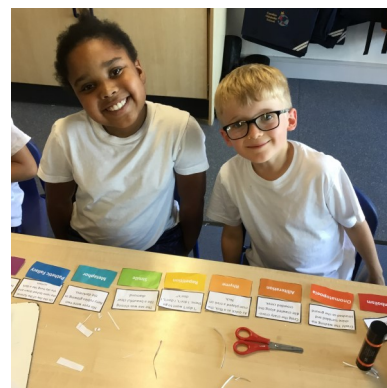
For queries about ordering and paying for meals, contact:

u96254@compass-group.co.uk

CCS Primary Blogs

You may not be aware that each year group has their own blog which is updated regularly. The teachers use their blogs to communicate important information to parents. This will include an update on learning over the week, details of homework due, and spellings. It may also include class or pupil achievements, messages about resources required, messages to the children, plans for the forthcoming week and more.

[Click here to view Primary blogs](#)



"I love school! It's so much fun and I made new friends and I even built a tower that was so high and tall in the sky."

Blake (RKJAM)

Our Learning Highlights

Since we returned to school, we have certainly been very busy learning lots of new things and having lots of fun.

Our new Reception children are now attending school full time and have settled in nicely. They have enjoyed getting to grips with numbers and practicing their fine motor skills.

Year 1 are starting to get into the swing of learning in a more formal classroom environment and have been practicing identifying and representing numbers.

In Year 2, some of the highlights have been making their own African masks and necklaces as well as learning about the world's continents and oceans using maps and atlases.



Year 3 took their learning outdoors for an activity that explored the use of adjectives. They had to use their best describing words about pictures of different characters. They have also been learning all about the different parts of the body.

Year 4 were outdoors for an exciting drama lesson producing freeze frames to show predictions of what the children thought might happen in a story as well as learning all about survival skills for their Sensational Start.

We had a great sensational start for Year 5, linked to the theme of 'Journeys', which involved going out to the nature area to build a new home, imagining being on the journey of migration.

Year 6 have started the year learning all about their theme; Enchanting East. It was a fun-filled day drawing Manga cartoons of ourselves, making origami animals and Chinese lanterns.