

5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted that we have successfully welcomed back our Key Worker and Reception Bubbles; it is lovely having children back in our school as they are at the heart of everything we do! I am incredibly aware that many parents have chosen to keep their children at home and I hope you forgive me for sharing the positives at school as we welcome more children back to CPS. I absolutely support and respect your decision and when we fully reopen, we will ensure a smooth transition for everyone. Points to note:

- Several of the children have felt cold due to a drop in temperature in general and we have all of our windows open
- Several children are feeling hungry; they are used to grazing throughout the day; please do send a mid morning / afternoon snack: please use a sandwich bag rather than a pot if possible
- Please do not send in additional items and avoid school bags
- Please be prompt for your bubble time and do not mix bubbles ie if it is Year 1's slot, Reception children should wait out of the way
- Equally at collection time, please stand out of the way until your dismissal slot

We are aiming to restrict access beyond the carpark gates as much as we can for now. This means we cannot put the banded book boxes out. Pearson, however are giving parents free access to books and activities (simply sign up using the link)

<https://www.pearson.com/uk/forms/homeschool-planner-form.html>

and Oxford Owl have a huge bank of banded reading books again which you can register to access

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

We are excited to have relaunched team points; celebrating children's achievements more formally and how they have demonstrated our values both at home and at school. We will therefore be totting up and sharing house totals from now until the end of term; this is more complicated than it sounds, as teachers will have to know which house each child is in and award points to the correct houses, but we feel this will be worth it! Although very close, Arbrook won the House Trophy last half term; incredibly well done! I wonder who it will be this term?

Our children have taken ownership of their new Bubble groupings and have enjoyed naming themselves; some brilliant ideas were shared! The children at school have settled well and have loved seeing their friends even if from afar.

So far we have:

- Wonderful Bubble and Happy Bubble
- Busy Bee Bubble, Brill Bursting Bubble and Super 10 Bubble
- Buttercup Bubble, Sunflower Bubble and Primrose Bubble

I would like to give my thanks to the Office Team who have chased throughout to receive an official cancellation for our residential trips. We can now claim for reimbursement via our insurance company; apologies that this has been so long in coming. I appreciate that these trips were cancelled in theory so long ago and we also recognise that these are challenging times in many ways!

September seems an age away but time flies! We are already busy looking at transition for all our children but in particular Year 6. We have begun to liaise with our secondary schools, sharing information with them and talking about how we will ensure our children feel confident about their next exciting steps into Key stage 3. We are impressed with their ideas of virtual tours etc. As is the norm, teachers will be talking to the children both in and out of school about end of year celebrations and liaising with parents about all of the usual things, although we understand that this too may look different this year.

Everyone has been impacted by this pandemic in so many ways! Miss Seale has reflected on life and has decided she is keen to explore Key Stage 1 and has secured a job at another school. It has been an absolute pleasure working with her and seeing her blossom as a teacher at CPS. We have seized this opportunity to employ a very experienced EYFS teacher, Ms Dias, who will help us on our journey of improvement as EYFS Lead. Ms Dias and the EYFS team are already busy, busy, busy reflecting on all aspects of learning and transition. We will be liaising with local nurseries and parents of our new starters and we feel confident that our transition plans are at least as good as previously.

As many of you know, I have taught from Reception all the way to Year 6 (yes I am that old!). I know from first hand, the importance of each and every stage of the child's learning journey. No one however has experienced this pandemic in our schools! We are thinking about our children who have not been at school and those who have and how we will ensure smooth transitions for them all into their next year groups. We have thought carefully about mixing year groups and have decided not to mix the younger classes. We have thought just as carefully about Year 4 and the team feel that the benefits of a mix outweighs any disadvantages. Class shuffles were initially drafted in January and children have been observed carefully since then. The team considered who their friendship groups are as well as who they work well with and of course their gender. These children are expecting to be mixed and we will be particularly mindful of the need for a strong transition to ensure the success of these new class groups.

We appreciate that transition is as important as ever at this time. Currently, class swaps will differ from the norm. We are considering the use of videos and opening Google Classroom to their new teacher before the end of the year to support transition. SLT will be discussing this further in the next few weeks. Social stories, guided by our Inclusion leader and ELSA team may also be a valuable support for some children.

We hope you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy. As we face the difficult challenge of responding to COVID-19 our thoughts go out to those affected by this event and we send heartfelt thanks to the healthcare workers, local communities and governments around the world working to contain this unprecedented situation. The most important thing, I am sure I will keep repeating is that we stay positive and supportive as a community.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Sandra Cunningham

Head Teacher

Over the past few weeks Natalie (Hawthorn) has played in an U12s virtual chess tournament.

She came top and received a trophy!

She has also been invited to play the **Clash of Champions 2020 Telex Tournament** over the next few weeks.

Well Done Natalie – we look forward to hearing how you get on!



If anyone else has any news about exciting achievements during lockdown please do let us know as we would love to share it.