

Newsletter

15th September 2020

The first few weeks have felt very positive around school and it is great to welcome our Pre-school and Reception families to more full time provision. We now have 370 children on roll with several families booked ready to start Pre-school in January.

We are all getting used to the new systems in school and making small changes to ensure safety is not being compromised.



Reception children lining up for their first lunch!



Pre-school children cooking and washing up!!

Parent Teacher meetings & questions

We hope you took advantage of meeting your child's Class Teacher. Powerpoints of the presentations have been emailed out to parents. If you have any questions for your child's Class Teacher or the office, please call or email into the school.

We have new email addresses that you can have to access the Class Teachers. These are: classname@hva.clf.uk, e.g. apple@hva.clf.uk Please note, these are new and different to the previous email accounts we have used.



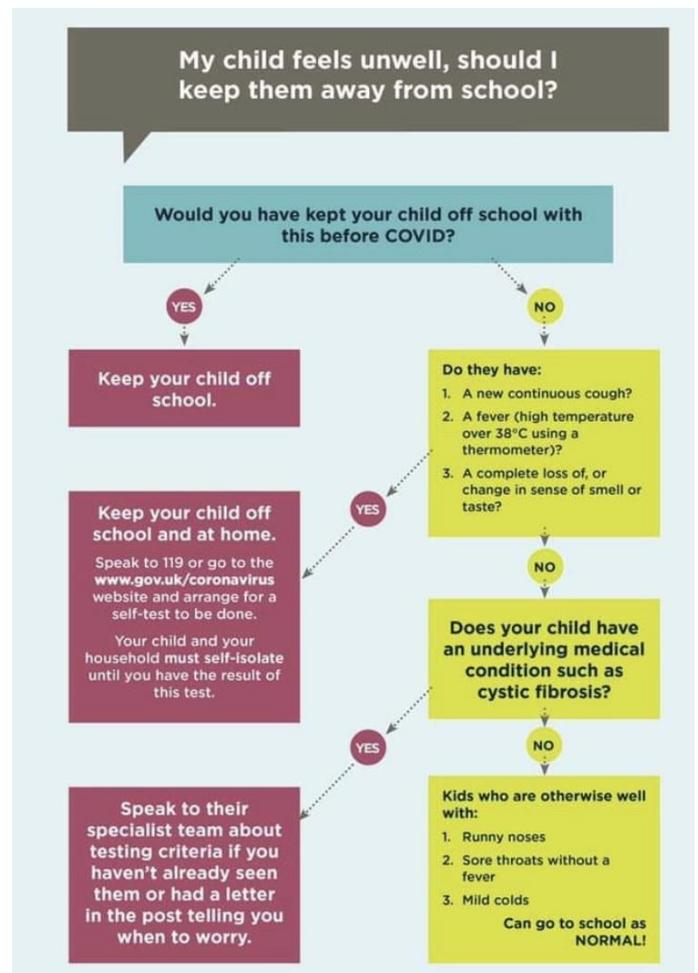
Entrance and exit to school

Please make use of the paths into school and playground space, including Pre-school, to socially distance and not congregate in socially distanced groups of no more than 6 people. We are happy to remind you, but we believe you would prefer us not to ask.



Unsure whether to bring your child into school due to feeling unwell or other COVID-19 related matters?

We will be emailing additional guidance that the Cabot Learning Federation has produced to guide parents. However, please see this quick guide if your child does not seem to be 100%.



Quick word on PE kit footwear

Wearing PE kit on PE days has been successful so far. Regarding footwear, we would always promote sports trainers, even for our youngest children. However, for Reception, Year 1 and 2, 'daps' (black plimsolls) are acceptable. We do not expect families to buy another 'PE-only pair' of trainers. If the trainers are clean and suitable for sport, your child can wear these, even if they are used outside of school.

Distancing from staff

Please can all parents make a conscious effort to socially distance from staff. Whilst we appreciate that conversations regarding your child are not conversations you may wish to broadcast, it may be appropriate to either write to the school, telephone and request a call back or accept that we can wait until a few parents have dispersed before we engage in a confidential parent and teacher conversation.

In addition, we would greatly appreciate a significant reduction in the 'forgotten items' being brought into school during the school day by parents. Although it seems harmless and well-intended, the transport of items by administration staff to different bubbles across the school compromises safety.

School lunches - Years Reception to Year 2

Please note that our approach to school meals means that children in these Year groups take advantage of the government's free infant school meals. Packed lunches are not an option for children in Reception, Year 1 or 2 unless we have received medical advice in conjunction with a formal health care plan. From next week, 21st September, the full range of Aspens menu will be offered. We know from feedback from families adhering to this policy, there are positive outcomes:

- The school meals help with eating at home and allows families to eat together with reduced need to cook different meals, as children becoming more accepting of the adult choices for what foods are best for them.
- Children eat a balanced diet, and often experience new meals that are often difficult to 'trial'.
- Family meals in the evening can be lighter as the children have eaten a cooked meal in the daytime.
- The cost is zero to families.
- Children gain further experience to use a knife and fork correctly (which helps fine motor control as well as good table manners).

Tik-Tok & E-safety

We have been made aware that there is a video uploaded on Tik Tok, that might expose children to extremely disturbing content. Some of you are familiar with this app as it has become very popular in recent times. It is an age 13 rated app so if your child does have access to it please ensure you are supervising that use at the present time.

Please can we encourage you to have regular conversations with your child, especially our Year 3 -5 children, about online safety, being aware of how you can build their resilience to online content, encouraging open conversations about online life and ensuring they know they can talk to you or anyone at school about it.

Do also visit the UK Safer Internet Centre advice for parents page for lots of tips and advice to help with conversations: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>. They also have helpful content to support children who have seen something upsetting online: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-parents-what-do-if-your-child-sees-something-upsetting-online>

Despite the rules...it's joyfilled!



Year 1 making fresh apple juice in Forest School



Year 4 learning about sound whilst drumming rice!

Parking

If you did not know, the parking by Co-op has different parking spaces:

Yellow: **Residents only** and attached to specific homes.

Blue: Extra parking for the school.

Green: Parking for the shop customers.

Please do not park in residents parking places.

Contingency plans for bubble closure & parent engagement update

We now have the Microsoft email accounts for all children. We plan to share these soon. It would be worth downloading the Microsoft teams app in advance, although it is not essential. We will also be relaunching our class blogs soon too.

Mr Jones

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