



## What a week!

This has not been the start to the term that any of us wanted but I know that many members of our school community have been relieved that the difficult decision to keep their children at home on Monday has now been decided for them.

I believe that our move to remote learning and the school-based provision was as smooth as it could possibly have been given the 12 hours (overnight) which we had to prepare.

I know that some families have experienced difficulties with logging onto Google Classroom and / or the daily Teams Meetings but staff have been working exceptionally hard to resolve issues. My thanks go to them, and to you, for your patience and understanding.

There will be a few changes next week, based on our experiences this week, and the updated guidance received from the Department for Education yesterday. I will explain them in this newsletter.

## Website

We now have a new page on our website which contains information related to the current partial closure. It can be found in the 'Parents & Carers' tab and is called 'School Closure'.

The page contains help guides to support remote learning and suggested websites for well-being and online safety.

Do let us know if there is anything else that you would like us to add to this page to support you.

## Data Storage / Wireless Routers / Loan of Devices / SIM cards

The government is funding an initiative to increase data allowances on mobile devices for families who are entitled to Free School Meals. Attached with this newsletter is a letter from Mr Gargan.

We also have a few more devices in school which can be loaned to families if your child is struggling to access Google Classroom.

We also have 50 SIM cards which are pre-paid if additional data would help you.

Mr Gargan is your key contact for all of these options and can be emailed at [w.gargan@cove-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:w.gargan@cove-jun.hants.sch.uk)

For all other enquiries, please email the office: [office@cove-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:office@cove-jun.hants.sch.uk) and we will respond as soon as we are able to. As you can imagine, we have had a huge number of communications this week so there may be a slight delay in answering you.

Stay safe everyone!

## DIARY DATES

New dates / updates in yellow

Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	PTA virtual meeting at 6:30pm <b>CANCELLED</b>
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Closing date for Year 3 places (September 2021 admissions)
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	It is 75 years since the plane crash at Cove Junior School
January – date to be confirmed	Mid-year reports issued to parents
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Celebrating Cookie and Oreó's birthday <b>(Non-uniform day)</b>
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Cookie and Oreó's 2 <sup>nd</sup> birthday
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Year 6 day trip to the Gilbert White Study Centre <b>CANCELLED – REFUNDS BEING PROCESSED</b>
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Close for half term holiday @ 3:25pm
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	School reopens for Spring 2 – <b>WE HOPE!</b>
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	World Thinking Day (Children can come to school in their Scouting uniforms)
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 4 Roman Day
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Notification of Year 7 places for Sept 2021
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	World Book Day (Further details to follow)
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents' evening 3:45-5:30pm
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents' evening 3:45-5:30pm
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Red Nose Day for Comic Relief (further details to follow)
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents' evening 5:00-7:00pm
Thur 1 <sup>st</sup> April	School closes for the Easter holiday @ 1:30pm
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Notification of Year 3 places for Sept 2021
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens for Summer 1
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Wb Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs Week <b>CANCELLED</b>
Wb Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 residential trip to Wales

# School-based Learning

## Spaces at School

We currently have 108 children on our register for school-based learning and more requests keep coming. While we appreciate how hard it is to home-school children, especially when you are also trying to work from home, it is important that spaces at school are only used where absolutely necessary. The guidance states:

**"Limiting attendance is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities. Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can."**

We will, of course, continue to do all we can to keep the children as safe as possible in separate bubbles but the bubbles are getting larger, especially in Year 5. The DfE has not put a limit on bubble sizes as they did last summer and some local schools are teaching in groups of 30 or over.

I have tried to keep our bubbles smaller (our biggest group has 16 children) so that, if we have a positive Covid case at school, fewer families will need to self-isolate.

## Making a Childcare Bubble

The DfE published guidance (updated 14.12.20) to support parents when their children cannot come to school. I have shared this in an attached document - it allows 2 households to join together for childcare purposes. This may help parents who are trying to balance working from home with remote learning.

# Remote Learning

## Daily Teams Meetings

After a few problems on Tuesday afternoon when some parents were struggling to enter the meeting (we have now removed the need to wait in the lobby), these meetings are running very successfully.

The morning session (9:00-10:00am) is proving to be very useful for teachers to explain the learning activities for the day and provide teaching points and suggestions; and for the children to ask questions.

The afternoon sessions are attended by fewer children (because most have successfully managed to complete their learning and don't have additional questions) and so these meetings will only last for 30 minutes from next week onwards. The meetings from Mondays to Thursdays will now be 1:15-1:45pm.

## Friday afternoon Teams Meeting

On a Friday afternoon (starting 15<sup>th</sup> January), the meetings will include a Year Group Celebration Assembly. The children and staff who are based at school will also join in with these meetings so that everyone in a year group can meet together and share positives from the week. As your family may contain children in different year groups, the meetings will take place at different times during the afternoon. The meetings will last for 30 minutes and the assembly will last for around 15 minutes. This will allow children at home to have an opportunity to ask questions about the day's learning activities if needed.

Year 3 Teams Meeting 1:15-1:45pm including Year 3 Assembly 1:30-1:45pm

Year 4 Teams Meeting 1:45-2:15pm including Year 4 Assembly 1:45-2:00pm

Year 5 Teams Meeting 2:15-2:45pm including Year 5 Assembly 2:15-2:30pm

Year 6 Teams Meeting 2:45-3:15pm including Year 6 Assembly 2:45-3:00pm

## **Year 6 SATs**

The DfE has cancelled all Year 6 SAT tests for this summer and removed the submission of Teacher Assessments for Year 6 children.

We will however, still be monitoring the children's attainment and progress when they return to school so that we can provide secondary schools with as much information as possible when they leave us in July.

## **Mid-year Reports**

As we were unable to provide accurate assessment information in our end of year reports to parents last July, we made the decision to send a brief mid-year report to all parents on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. The aim of this was so that all parents would have an understanding of their child's current attainment in reading, writing and maths and their next learning targets.

All teachers entered this data at the end of the Autumn term and it was due to be moderated this week to ensure consistency across year groups and to ensure that it was as accurate as possible. Obviously this moderation couldn't take place as not all staff are in school so we are rearranging for this process to take place virtually.

For this reason, the mid-year report will be delayed but we will try and get them to you as quickly as we can. I will send further details when plans have been finalised.