

North Elmham CEVA Primary School Stibbard All Saints CEVA Primary School Flourish Federation

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Dear Parents.

Firstly a big thank you to our parents for their support in ensuring that the school is as Covid secure as possible. We are working hard to keep the school running safely and your support in wearing a mask on school grounds helps with this. The children too should be congratulated - they have quickly picked up and maintained routines of hand washing and distancing. They are brilliant at recognising who is in or not in their bubble when they enter the toilets for example, thus they wait outside. It is so sweet to hear Reception children say, you are not in my bubble, so I'll wait here!

The children although very tired now and are now getting used to holding a pencil again after many months are doing remarkably well. I am proud of how they are coping and they are still adjusting to these different school days. There is a tremendous amount of talking things through in class. Hopefully, you'll have received all our information this half term with my letters, curriculum maps, class letters and now parent consultation appointments. If you haven't, please check with the office that we have your correct email address and that these documents are not in your junk/spam boxes.

Autumn is here

September has really flown by and we are definitely in the grips of Autumn. With this in mind, please can children bring in named coats during colder weather as we like to use our outdoor resources at every opportunity. Can I also ask that children bring small bags only into school or none at all- we are quite pushed for space! The heating is on but the windows are open to aid ventilation. If your child feels the cold then another layer might be a good idea - bring out the vests!

Jeans for Genes Day

A big well done to all those who wore jeans into school and supported our Jeans for Genes Day. We are pleased to report that we have raised £80. The money has been sent to the Jeans for Genes charity which supports children with genetic disorders.

Enrichment

Our enrichment project across the two schools has been going well. The children have really enjoyed taking part in the challenges led by a different member of staff each week. Last week Mrs Gkikopoulos shared a lovely story, Not Now Bernard and an activity that encouraged the children to look very closely at the world around them.

Teachers are adding pictures and learning on their class page on our new website; https://www.flourishfed.com/

Traffic concerns

I was sad to receive a phone call from a concerned local resident at Stibbard today, who was worried about speeding within the village at school drop off and pick up. A reminder that the speed limit around the school is 20mph. Speeding is particularly dangerous when taking into account the many parents and young children who are walking to school each day. Please be considerate.

Covid-19 times

To date there have been no positive tests in our school communities thankfully and long may this continue. The attendance at both schools has been fantastic. We have had 100 % attendance in many classes. To date our pupil attendance is 96.4% at Stibbard and 95.8% at North Elmham, which is fantastic in these times especially. I believe the national figure is 88%.

You may have heard the government has asked all schools to create a remote curriculum from 22nd October in the event of a lockdown. Our Teachers have met about this and we are designing our offer. We know many children do not have access to their own devices often sharing a family one and we are therefore including practical ways of providing support. What's different is that you as parents are not expected to be the teacher this time. I know that was tricky for many of you and your respect for us teachers getting 30 children to learn all at once baffled many of you. Therefore, you'll be pleased to know we are aiming at the pupils accessing their learning independently as much as possible. How will this work with very young children I hear you ask is going to be interesting. However, we endeavour to come up with a suitable plan and we will share this with you shortly. Thank you for your support with this.

You might be wondering about residential trips. We have been informed by the DfE that residential trips are not to be planned for at present, this is of course under review as time moves on.

Catering

We are hoping to return to hot meals from half term! We are currently negotiating with a new catering provider called Chartwells and we hope to be able to provide more information to you next week. Their exciting menu is nutritiously balanced and designed with children in mind; the menu will include a hot meal every day, for example, lasagne with garlic/herb wedge bread, chicken tikka masala/rice and a roast dinner option each week. There will also be an alternative vegetarian option and a jacket potato with various fillings.

Staffing

I'd like to thank all my staff for their tremendous team work and their great support to one another and with settling in our pupils this half term. We also welcome a new member of staff who will be working with both schools in order to maintain clear lines of communication and support with the day-to-day running of the schools. Mrs Jen Carlyle is our interim Deputy Head and will be working with us until Christmas, 2-3 days a week.

Hello!

My name is Mrs Jen Carlyle and I'm happy to introduce myself as the interim Deputy Head. I'll be

working at the schools on various days each week and am looking forward to getting to know your children and you in my time here. I am a mother of four daughters - always interesting! I have been a teacher, assistant Head Teacher and Head Teacher over the last 23 years. I have a particular interest in SEN as one of my daughters is autistic. I am proud to say that she has just started at Oxford University - with the right support, our autistic children can achieve their dreams!



As well as daughters, I live with my husband, who is an Executive Head Teacher, and our many and varied pets.

It's been lovely to spend time in both the schools so far, chatting to parents and children. I look forward to meeting more of you.

Jen Carlyle

Just a reminder, half term commences on Thursday October 22nd and we return to school on Monday November 2nd.

Stay safe, distanced and enjoy your family time together!

Ms P Jones

Executive Headteacher