

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



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Dear Parents/Carers

This will be our final letter of 2020, it's a long one, you might need a sit down with a cup of tea, I'm sure we all agree, what a year! We all remain hopeful that we keep as safe as we have this term and that 2021 allows us to get back onto the path to a new normal life. I know the children and staff are desperate for things to return as before but we equally know this pandemic remains and we need to follow the guidelines as best we can to keep us and our loved ones safe. The children are desperately tired (teachers too!) as it's been a tough term for them to manage both physically and psychologically. I hope the Christmas break allows us all to get some much needed down time and that we can rest up for the term ahead. I wish you well and I thank you for your tremendous support this term, you have been brilliant following our school Covid routines and the attendance at both schools has been brilliant, so well done to you all as that is a success for us all to share.

Following the school news below is an important new email address for you to use should there be a positive Covid test result during the holiday

Retirement

We have two members of staff in the Flourish Federation who will be retiring at the end of this term. At All Saints Primary we will say a massive thank you and goodbye to Miss Trish Thurgill. Trish has been working at the school for 13 years but has been associated with us for much longer as her own children are former pupils Trish is part time in our office and her final working day will be on Wednesday. I know you may want to wish her a very long, healthy and happy retirement therefore, please feel you can phone Trish in the office or wave at the window and should you wish to leave a parting gesture you are welcome to do so by dropping off in the foyer.

Equally we say a fond farewell to one of our midday supervisors at North Elmham Primary, Mrs Doreen Barker, who will also be retiring next week, after over 25 years' service at the school. Again, I know you will join me in thanking her for the support she has given to the school and in wishing her a very long, healthy and happy retirement. Again please feel you can do the same at North Elmham by leaving a thankful gesture in the foyer too.

Other Staffing changes for the New Year

Sadly, we will also say goodbye this term to Liam Coppack, our sports coach and teaching assistant who will be moving on to pastures new. I know you will all join me in sending our best wishes to Liam and in thanking him for his contribution and support to the school. He will be missed by all.

As you know Mrs Jen Carlyle has been supporting me temporarily this half term as an Interim Deputy Head. We thank her for this support and we are so grateful for the time she gave us and we wish her every success in her next career move.

Many of you will have either met or spoken to Ms Hannah Pannell who has been working part time in the All Saints office since September. I am pleased to say Hannah will be working full time from January in the office. We will also have a new Inclusion Manager, Miss Gail Nelson, in addition to Miss Berenice Ludlow. Miss Nelson will start in January shadowing Miss Ludlow then she will be based solely at All Saints and Miss Ludlow will be solely based at North Elmham. Miss Nelson is also a qualified PE instructor and will be taking some PE lessons.

We are also pleased to advise that our year 1 teacher at All Saints Primary, Mr Josh Arter, has accepted a permanent contract with us; Mr Arter has been a fabulous addition to our team this term so we are very pleased he will be joining us permanently.

Many families will have already met Mrs Alie Otty, who has been working with our Federation since the start of 2020 as the temporary Special Educational Needs Coordinator. We are delighted Mrs Otty will also be joining us permanently from January, working 4 days per week (Mon – Thurs) with the SEND children and their families in both schools.

You may have seen in the news and media reports that the government has allocated funding to schools to help support children who have fallen behind in their learning due to the closure of schools because of the pandemic. We have decided to use this funding to employ a qualified teacher to work with groups of children at both our schools for the remainder of this academic year. This will be Mrs Carolyn Pickhaver; Mrs Pickhaver has been teaching our year 3 class at All Saints whilst Miss Delaney was shielding and she will be staying with us to undertake this catch-up teaching across all year groups in both schools, so we too welcome her to our growing team.

In January we will have a new Midday supervisor, Miss Cator, joining our lunchtime team for North Elmham and we recently recruited a new midday supervisor at All Saints, Mrs Julie Tillbrook. However, we are still looking for a further MSA to join our lunchtime team at Stibbard. An advert has been placed on the Norfolk Schools vacancies website, but if you are interested further details can be obtained from the school offices.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs Otty held a virtual SEN café earlier this week which was an opportunity for parents to find out further information and ask any questions about the provision for our children in both schools. At the meeting was also Mrs Amy Pease who is the manager of Sendiass, which is an organisation that offers support to families with SEND. Thank you to the families who joined us and contributed to the discussion. The information discussed at the café has been added to our Flourish federation school website for all to see on the SEND page.

Christmas week – 14th to 18th December

Regretfully, we are not able to hold all the usual Christmas and end of term events this year. However, classes at both schools are busy practising a short performance/presentation for parents to view next week. This will either be via a live zoom link or a video will be placed on the school websites. Your child's class teacher will have the details for your child's class.

Children at both schools will be having their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16th December followed by a virtual pantomime in the afternoon. A theatre company will be zooming into each classroom so the children will watch the show in their class bubbles.

Many of you have asked about the receiving of cards and gifts; to keep everyone safe we would ask that Christmas cards and any gifts are brought into school by Monday 14th December; they will then be "quarantined" until Friday 18th December when they will be handed out to the children and staff. Please remember to write the full name and class on the envelopes.

Websites

We have been continually updating and adding to our websites since they were launched a few months ago. If you have not looked at these recently, please take the time to view the class pages and the information we have added. If there is something you feel should be on the website's, please contact either school office and we will try to address this. Parents/carers can sign up to receive alerts when new information is added; this can be done by "subscribing to emails" at the bottom of the home pages.

Music lessons

Our individual and class music lessons will commence again from 4th January 2021 so please ensure your child brings their instruments into school on the appropriate day that week. Invoices for individual and small group lessons will be sent to parents/carers at the start of the term.

Advice from Norfolk County Council

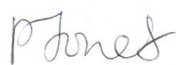
During the school holiday please can we ask that you follow all the national guidance; we have included some helpful bullet points and web addresses below. If everyone takes individual responsibility and follows this guidance, we can collectively manage a safe and secure return to education in the new year:

- If a child from one of our schools, or their parents/carers or a sibling living in the same household should test positive for COVID-19 during the Christmas break, please could we ask you to notify the school by sending an email to: covid@flourishfed.co.uk .
- If your child is unable to start the new term because of any other illness, please let us know in the normal way. School reopens 4th January 2021
- If your child lives in the same household as someone with coronavirus, your child must stay at home for **14 days** from the first day the person with coronavirus had symptoms or had their test
- If your child develops Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) they should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared (or from the date they received a positive test result).
- COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) has information for households with possible coronavirus infection including easy to read guides in a number of languages
- Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) has information for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus infection including an easy to read guide
- If your family is need of support to help you through a period of isolation, please see the Norfolk Assistance Scheme - www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk
- Please remember; there are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other 1. Wash hands, 2. Cover face, 3. Make space

Myself and Mrs Julie Brown, our Office manager, we will be monitoring this covid@flourishfed.co.uk email address during the break and will take any necessary action if we should have cases within our school communities. This email address should only be used to notify us of positive cases. If you do need to inform us, please provide the full name of your child/family, which school your child attends, who has tested positive in the family and the date the test was completed. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Although the festive season will be different this year as we all continue to try and keep each other safe and healthy, we do hope that you can all enjoy this period and we wish you a safe and happy new year.

Yours sincerely



Ms P Jones
Executive head teacher