

20.10.2020



Dear Families,

What a half term! I can't believe that we are already almost through our first half term together this year. I do hope that you feel that it has been a good one? It certainly is a tough time in schools; but our overarching hope is that our children never feel the stresses and worries of the world whilst inside school... I hope you think that we are managing that. We are certainly trying our very best.

Please remember that children return to school on Tuesday 3rd November as the Monday is a staff training day.

Below is a round-up of some bits and pieces that we want to share with you...



Wrap-Around Care

Thank you all so much for completing the questionnaire I sent recently. It appears that creating our own provision may be a viable option! Lots of you responded positively to the potential of us opening our own provision, so we have advertised for staff to run a before and after school club. The advert closes after the half term, so we are aiming to open our provision at some point next

half term. Watch this space. Again, thank you all so much for your patience.

School Photos

Your child will receive their photo 'proof' tomorrow – instructions for ordering are included with the photo. We would appreciate it if you could order directly from Tempest using the website and individual code on your child's sheet. If you are unable to do this, let us know and we will see how we can help.



Remote Learning

We are in the process of setting up remote home learning accounts for our children. These will be used in the event of a future school closure, for example if a class 'bubble' closes or there is another national lockdown. Please do not worry – we have no new information about the government's plans, but we do want to be prepared! We will primarily use the see-saw platform. In order to ensure that you and your child are confident with the platform, after half term, we will begin to send out a simple homework task each week via see-saw, so that should the platform be needed more intensely, then we are all up and running! Your child's individual access code will be sent this week but do not log in as there will be nothing there until after half term – anything that is 'there' will be just staff practising as it is going to be a focus for our PD day after half term! We will also resume our use of the Active-Learning platform to allocate reading books, should we need to. We will send out usernames and passwords again - if required at the time. Fingers crossed that we don't ever need these plans!



Outdoor Play and Learning Accreditation

As a school we have recently embarked on our 'OPAL' journey. OPAL are a company that supports schools to make the most of their school grounds, playtimes and 'play'. We are so excited about the potential for our children and school – it really is going to be fabulous over time! If you want to know more about the OPAL programme, check out their website at <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>

Reading at Home

As always, once your child is allocated a reading book, please practise as often as possible! The Year 1 children will sit the national Phonics Screening Check this year in the summer term and we want them all to do brilliantly!

Please help us by practising reading and using the sound books as often as you can – and as a minimum, 4 times each week.

Website

Our full curriculum is now available online for you to see. Staff have worked tirelessly and our full curriculum is now written all the way to Year 6! The only thing missing is our Latin curriculum (we are doing this instead of French, German etc) – this kicks in when the children reach Year 3... so I have some time to read up and learn some Latin! Our termly overviews are also available for parents to see what the children are learning each term and how you can support at home.



Freaky Friday!

This Friday, all children are invited to come to school dressed in their Halloween costumes! You should have received information from your class teacher. If you do not celebrate Halloween, that's fine – anything would be ok. But please... nothing too scary!

Delicious Dinners!

We are in the process of reviewing our menus again now that we have ran through the full three week hot dinner cycle. We have been looking at what children have enjoyed, not enjoyed and what hasn't worked as we thought! We'll share the updated menus after half term via the link that is on our website in the 'for parents' section.

Reading Workshop

Thank you to those reception parents who gave up their time to attend our online phonics meeting last week. Hopefully you found it useful! If you could not attend, or want to look at further materials, we have a dedicated reading webpage with pronunciation videos, support for home learning and a copy of the presentation that we shared last week. If you need anything else or have any questions, please just ask – no question is too silly, we promise!

<https://www.cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk/reading-at-cambrai>

Attendance

Schools are judged on their attendance because it is so important that children attend school as regularly as absolutely possible in order to keep up with their learning. Remember that our school target (as is most schools') for our children is 96% - this is only 4 days of absence across a whole year! This does not mean that we want children to ever attend school with COVID symptoms, or when children are very poorly or contagious... we just want families to be mindful on days when you just aren't sure whether to send them in, that we can always call you if they aren't coping.

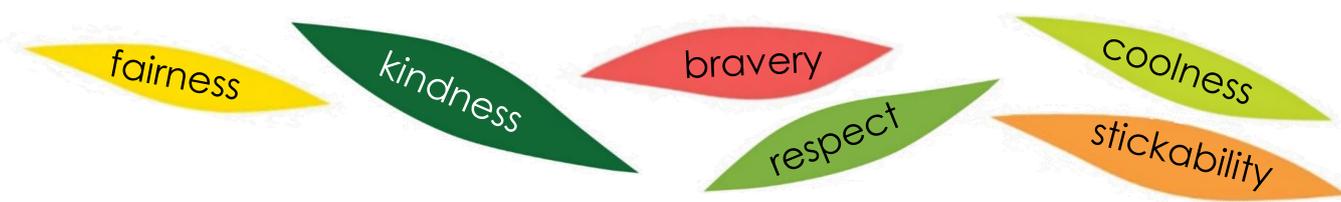


Exciting Times!

Sadly, because of COVID, many of the things that we would normally plan for cannot happen; such as a harvest festival performance, trips out of Catterick and additional after school clubs. We are desperate for things to return to normal when they can – when bubbles can share staff, we can travel on coaches, venues will be open – and we can get out! Until then we are doing our best by inviting safe visitors in to school (I'm sure that you heard all about Zoo-Lab and the Service Pupils Service workshop), using our grounds and going for short visits in the local area. Year 1 have just visited the Garrison Church as part of their RE work. Sadly, it is much harder to get reception children out and about as they need so many adults to hold hands! We are thinking creatively though and already thinking about ways that we can avoid depriving reception parents of a nativity!

School Virtues

Our school has a set of 6 virtues that we always try to live by and promote...



Your child may receive a 'virtue' award from time to time or an 'above any beyond band' – these are simply ways for us to let you know about something awesome. They are special and we don't give out too many... so if your child comes home with one, make a big fuss... it is a big deal! Our behaviour policy outlines all of our rewards and approaches, which is available online at <https://www.cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk/policies>.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and being a part of our Cambrai family. Have a wonderful half term (whatever it may look like) and we will see you on November 3rd!

Best regards,

Mr. Mark Dent
Executive Headteacher
Cambrai Primary School