

Happy New Year!

Dear Families,

I wanted to write to you all to welcome you back to 2020/21! It is so lovely to see our school growing before our eyes – with both staff and children. The Year 1 children have returned brilliantly and they are already in great routines with smiley faces! It's also like Mr Marshall and Mrs Maguire have always been here; they fit our team perfectly. The new Reception children have AMAZED us! We are so bowled over by how well they have all come in to school. We were heartbroken that we were unable to have our usual transition and 'gentle easing in' in place this year but despite this, the Reception children have taken to school like ducks to water!

Thank you all for your patience and kind words as we try and navigate through the 'new normal' – we feel very lucky to have such lovely parents!

Below are a few updates and points that we would like to share at this stage in the year.

School Dinners

School dinners are free for all infant children in England. We are very lucky as we employ our own cook (most schools sub contract school meals out) and because of this, Mrs Lambert really cares about our school family... because she is fully part of it! Almost all schools are currently doing 'packed lunch' style lunches due to restrictions on children and staff moving around school – but we are constantly reviewing this as we are desperate to get back to Mrs Lambert's dinners ASAP! Watch this space...



School Website

Don't forget that our school website has a section called 'Parent and Carer Information'. This page has lots of the answers to questions which we get asked, so be sure to check it out! www.cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk

DFE Visit

Last week we had the Department for Education visit the school to review the finished building. They were bowled over by how lovely the school looked and all of the great displays of children's work. There still remains

three things to be completed before we are totally 'done' – the car park, the car park fencing and the resurfacing of the small playground... we are awaiting dates from the DFE, but when we know, we will let you know as the car park may be out of action for a day or two. As a reminder, please do not park in the disabled bay unless you are registered disabled – we have families who need this access.

Medical and Contact Information

Please remember to let us know if any contact or medical information changes over the year. We need to always have at least 2 live contact numbers and the latest medical information for your child. If you want to check our information – pop in to the office to take a look at the forms which you filled in when your child started.



Wellies

Now we have access to our lovely grounds, we are officially a 'Wellie School'. Children will put on their wellies each and every playtime – to save their shoes getting muddy, and to keep our new carpets looking good! If you need to check that your child's wellies still fit, just pop a note in the home-school notebook and we'll check for you. Please label the wellies too when you send them in. This term we are embarking on our journey to become an OPAL accredited school – an award all about the quality of outdoors play and learning... we can't wait to get started!



School Contacts and Facebook

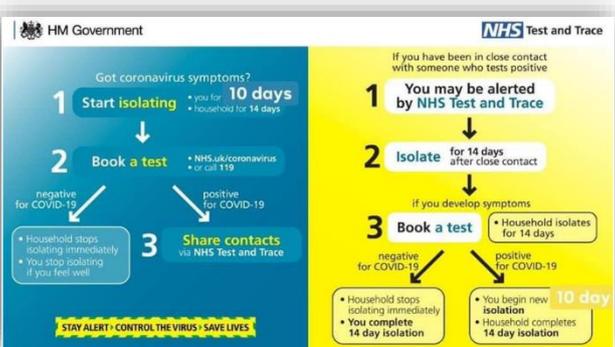
Our school Facebook page is a great way to quickly share photos and updates – and I know that we have lots of you who subscribe to it. Just a quick reminder that the Facebook messenger isn't the best way to contact the school as it generally isn't monitored during the day. If you need to contact us or ask a question, give us a call, drop us an email at the school address (Miss Ferguson and Mr Dent pick these up), or call in to the office. Our office is still open as there is a glass screen in place to keep us all safe during these times. If you need to email your teacher directly, their email addresses are:

Mrs Guest	squest@cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk
Mr Marshall	smarshall@cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk

I do not, however, expect the teachers to be picking up emails late in to the evening, so if you email your class teacher, please be patient as they will get back to you as soon as they can! Lastly, as the 'Reception Parents 2019-20' Facebook page was set up in response to the national lockdown, as a way of parents and children keeping in touch - and we are now fully back to school – the page will now be taken down at the end of the week. As you will imagine, as the school grows, there would be no way we could manage a closed group per year group! It would be a full time job! I hope that you understand.

Attendance

Children are now expected to attend school fully and as such school attendance is compulsory for all children. We know that good school attendance and children's achievements go hand in hand; indeed, typically in Reception and Year 1 children learn a new sound each day... it is hard to catch up from an absence. As such, it is not typically possible to authorise holidays in term time. That said, we take COVID symptoms very seriously. If your child has a new cough, high temperature or change or loss of taste – **you must not send your child to school and request a test**, either online, via 119 or if you cannot get on through these channels, contact school as we have a very limited supply in school. The online form is: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name> Missed sessions due to COVID issues do not affect overall attendance this year. The following flow chart may also be of use when deciding what to do as a family, should symptoms appear.



Thank you also for continuing to observe social distancing rules around the site. Keep left on your way to and from Year 1 and spread out across the MUGA for Reception – and patiently wait to filter in. Keeping apart is key to reducing the spread of COVID 19.

I really hope that the first few days of term have been as good for you and your family as they have been for us; we are determined to make 2020-21 as brilliant as possible – whilst keeping everyone safe as possible. Thanks for being part of our school family.

Best regards,

Mr. Mark Dent
Executive Headteacher
Cambrai Primary School