



Cavendish Close Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter 9

Monday 11th January 2021

Wood Road
Chaddesden
Derby
DE21 4LY

662239

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you were able to enjoy quality time with your children during the Christmas holidays. I would like to start the first newsletter of the year by wishing you a heartfelt safe, happy, and healthy 2021. Please take care of yourself and your family by staying at home.

On Monday 4th January, we successfully held our second remote INSET day with great training sessions on vocabulary development and emotion coaching. I kept an eye on the news during the day, however, the Prime Minister continued to maintain that Primary Schools would remain fully open. By 8pm the Government had made the decision that from the next day, schools should only open for children of Critical Workers and vulnerable children, with all other children learning at home. By 8:45pm, in partnership with the Local Authority and our Governors, we made the decision that we needed an exceptional planning day to co-ordinate our school and home offer during this period of national lockdown. Staff also needed to consider and plan for their own personal circumstances. Unfortunately, the 'Teachers 2 Parents' text messaging service was entirely overwhelmed, and we were not able to communicate with parents and carers. This was understandable but frustrating as we wanted to give you as much notice as possible about the plan for Tuesday 5th January. We understand that a parent helpfully shared the message on an unofficial Cavendish Close Facebook group. I do not know who runs this group, but I would welcome the group admin contacting me at school as I feel that direct contact with our school would be helpful. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their understanding.

The positive response from all our staff groups has, yet again, been remarkable. We are determined to do all that we can to support our children and families. We can all play an important part in 'keeping learning going' and reducing transmission rates in our community. Our actions matter. We can do this together. Please follow the **National Lockdown: Stay at Home Government Guidance**.

[Stay Home](#)

[Protect the NHS](#)

[Save Lives](#)

Kind regards,

Mrs C Diffin

Headteacher

Our Core Purpose

Our children are all unique. They have big hearts and great energy.

All our children are stars, and we find and nurture their strengths.

Our children have fun loving personalities, and they like to talk about their experiences. They thrive with our routines and expectations.

Our children deserve the best and we are committed to enabling them to be the best that they can be.

Some of our children present us with barriers to their development and learning. We are committed to working in partnership with our parents and carers as well as the local community and appropriate agencies to meet the needs of our children.

All our children deserve quality time and interaction with the key adults in their lives.

We are committed to developing high aspirations within our school community. We provide all our children with rich and varied experiences.

To enable our children to succeed in life, we have **STAR Expectations**, and we work towards our **8 Behaviour Values** and **10 Learning Values**.

Together, we can all shine.



Children accessing learning at school

Demand for critical worker places is 10 times higher than it was during the last national lockdown and we are quickly becoming overwhelmed by new requests. The Government criteria have broadened, more businesses have remained open and employers have prepared supporting letters. We have already reached our safe capacity with approximately 100 children coming to school. This is hugely concerning for us as a school. The more Critical Worker children we have in school, the fewer spaces we have for vulnerable children. The more staff we need in school, the fewer staff we have available to support home learning.

During National Lockdown, you must not leave your home except where necessary. You should only go to work where you cannot work from home. Parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can. Please do all that you can to support our school by keeping your children at home if you can.

If you are a Critical Worker and you are working from home, please consider having your children at home for some or all the week. This is safer for your family and our school community. This will help our school to be able to help more of our vulnerable children. I appreciate that it is challenging managing home learning and working from home, however, we must all do our best to reduce social contacts.

If you are a part-time critical worker, **you can only bring your children to school when you are at work.** **If you can keep your child safe at home, you must during this period of national lockdown.** Please be honest with us.

How Critical is your work to the Coronavirus pandemic or the EU transition response? Please reflect again on whether your child really needs to come during this period of national lockdown or whether you can find another safe solution. We will be communicating with Critical Worker parents and carers again this week to learn more about working patterns and to establish who is working from home as we need to consider reducing numbers of children in school by prioritising places. We would love to support you all, but it is simply not safe at this time. We are relying on your integrity. Please do all that you can to keep our school and staff safe.

I know that not all our Critical Worker parents and carers have requested school places. Thank you.

I would like to thank our Critical Worker parents and carers for keeping our essential services going during the pandemic, with a special mention to our NHS hero parents and carers – You are doing a spectacular job and we are all incredibly grateful. Stay safe. For all our parents and carers who work in education, we appreciate how hard you are working to keep children safe, cared for, and learning.

We have welcomed back to school some of our most vulnerable children with safe support packages. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer school places to any of our other vulnerable children until the overall number of children in school reduces or it becomes safer to do so. We will continue to provide high-quality support for all children who are safely staying at home. Thank you for your understanding.

The Government have recognised that younger children are not able to maintain social distancing and for this reason we must keep group sizes small. We are continuing to assess risks in partnership with our Health and Safety Professional Advisors and Derby City Council.

Early Years Provision

Mrs Howett and I have written to Nursery parents and carers as the Government are currently asking Nursery classes to remain open, however, this decision is subject to change if national measures need to be tightened. Our Nursery bubble is our biggest bubble in school and so we have many concerns about how this can be done safely. Our Nursery bubble is almost full with children of Critical Workers and vulnerable children. Nursery parents and carers can choose to keep their children safe at home and to engage with Mrs Howett's excellent home learning offer. Following our consultation with Nursery parents and carers, we may need to look at additional spaces in school and additional staff. We are grateful for the patience and understanding shown by our Nursery parents and carers. Staffing shortages may mean that our offer may need to be temporarily reduced.



Children accessing learning at home

Our teachers are working incredibly hard on our brilliant daily home learning plans. They are sent to you in a link using our 'Teachers 2 Parents' text messaging service and they can be found on our school website www.cavclosei.derby.sch.uk in our **Home Learning** tab: **Year Group – Home Learning pages**. The children in school will be following the same plans as the children at home.

Our school promise is to find time to enjoy reading every day. Please support your child's reading by enjoying books together every day. Accessing '**Collins Big Cat eBooks**' will enable your child to continue progressing through our reading scheme.

Class bubble teams (teachers and Teaching Assistants) will make regular safe and well phone calls to their classes. We are expected to monitor engagement with home learning, and we are committed to providing support and encouragement to children and their parents and carers. Phone calls will either be from the school number or from a withheld number. Staff can speak to your child on loudspeaker if you confirm that you are present.

If you would benefit from paper copies of any resources, please let your child's class teacher know. We will do all that we can to enable your child to access the great learning that is on offer.

We are asking that you regularly share your children's work and achievements with us by email. Your child's class teacher will provide your child with feedback and encouragement to keep learning.

On our school website, you will also find all the fabulous posters and resources that we developed during the last national lockdown to support children's learning and well-being. We will be refreshing these and sharing them during the coming weeks.

Class bubble teams have all filmed a 'hello' video with an introduction message about home learning for their children and these will be sent for you to share with your children this week. The priority is establishing a home-schooling routine and creating a workspace. Your children will be able to make good use of their home learning gift from school.

Education City – www.educationcity.com Your child's Education City account is updated regularly by your child's class teacher. There are many great online learning activities so please do find time every week to have a look with your child. Many children love Education City and use it well to support their learning. The teachers can monitor how often this resource is used by the children in their class.

We are asking all parents and carers to do their best to support our remote education offer.

If you have any concerns about the amount or quality of the remote education your child is receiving, you must contact your child's class teacher or the leadership team. We are continuing to build on our existing remote education.

This week, we plan to survey parents and carers so that we can identify children where access to technology and the internet is a barrier to learning. We are currently exploring solutions.

Children who are entitled to Benefits Related Free School Meals and are learning at home will be eligible for a weekly £15 supermarket food voucher. Parents and carers will receive vouchers electronically.



Keeping children Safe

The best interests of children continue to come first for the Safeguarding Team.

If anyone has a safeguarding concern about a child, they should act on it immediately.

- Parents/Carers can email the school's Safeguarding team to make an enquiry, to ask for help or to report a concern: safeguarding@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

The Safeguarding Team will always respond to you. I (Mrs Diffin) am our Designated Safeguarding Lead. I oversee all communication with parents and provide advice and support to the Safeguarding Team as appropriate. Mrs Howett, Mrs Asghar, Mrs Vincett, Mrs Leadbeater and Mrs Dearie are our highly skilled and experienced Safeguarding Champions.

- Parents/Carers can ring Derby Children's Social Care directly 01332 641172 (Out of hours Careline 01332 956606).
- Parents/Carers can ring the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000.



School promotional Video

We hope that you were able to access our 'virtual online open day' to learn more about our fantastic school. The videos are on our website and we have shared them with our feeder Private, Voluntary, and Independent Early Years settings. Please support us by promoting our school in the community where you can.

Applying for Nursery and School Places

We have 15-hour and 30-hour places available in our School Nursery for 3- and 4-year-olds. If we have available space, we can admit children as soon as they are 3 years old. If you would like further information about our Nursery offer or to register your child for a place, contact the School Office 01332 662239.

If you have a 'little one' younger than 3, please register your interest in our Nursery now to support our future planning. Contact the school office 01332 662239.

We have places in all year groups in school (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2). To secure places, interested parents and carers need to ring the Derby City Admissions team 01332 642730.

All current Nursery parents and carers need to apply for a Reception place in school for September 2021. This must be done directly with Derby City Council.

All Year 2 parents and carers need to apply for a Junior (Year 3) place in a new school for September 2021. This must be done directly with Derby City Council.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021. The quickest and easiest way to apply is online. www.derby.gov.uk/primary You can apply by telephone on 01332 642730. National Offer Day is 16th April 2021.

We are continuing to strengthen the link between our school (a Derby City Council Local Authority School) and Cavendish Close Junior Academy (a Harmony Multi Academy Trust School).



Contacting School

Telephone 01332 662239.

Senior Leadership Team

leadership@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Diffin, Mrs Howett, Mrs Asghar)

School Office Team

admin@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Tusa, Mrs Kelly, Mrs Manners)

Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Diffin, Mrs Howett, Mrs Asghar, Mrs Vincett, Mrs Leadbeater, Mrs Dearie)

Inclusion Leader

senco@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Vincett)

Year Group Class Teachers

nursery@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk (Mrs Howett)

reception@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk (Mrs Smith, Miss Brown, Mrs Orme)

year1@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk (Miss Doxey, Mrs Unwin-Rose, Miss Luke)

year2@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk (Mrs Merriman, Mrs Asghar, Miss Harker)

Spring Term 1 2021 – Monday 4.1 to Friday 12.2	
Friday 15 th January	Admissions applications close – Nursery and Year 2 parents must apply for September 2021 school placements.
Friday 5 th February	<u>Wear a number day</u> . Charity donations will be sent to the NSPCC. Children will enjoy Marvellous Maths all day.
Tuesday 9 th February Friday 12 th February	<u>E Safety day</u> – Children will learn about how to stay safe online. School breaks up for a half term holiday.

Spring Term 2 2021 – Monday 22.2 to Thursday 1.4	
Thursday 4 th March	<u>World Book day</u> . More information to follow.
Friday 19 th March	<u>Comic Relief day</u> . More information to follow.
Thursday 1 st April	School breaks up for the Easter holiday.

Summer Term 1 2021 – Monday 19.4 to Friday 28.5	
Monday 3 rd May	Bank holiday.
Friday 21 st May	INSET day 4 – Staff training.
Friday 28 th May	School breaks up for a half-term holiday.

Spring Term 2 2021 – Monday 7.6 to Thursday 22.7	
Friday 2 nd July	INSET day 5 – Staff training.
Thursday 22 nd July	School breaks up for the summer holiday.