



Cavendish Close Infant and Nursery School  
**Newsletter 11**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Wood Road  
Chaddesden  
Derby  
DE21 4LY  
662239

### Dear Parents and Carers

It's February already and we are approaching the half term holiday and Spring. January has passed so quickly for us at school as we have settled into a new routine, supporting children at school and home.

We now know that it will be at least Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March before we are able to reopen more widely and begin welcoming back more children. It's clear that our COVID safe expectations and safety measures will continue to be in place until the end of the school year. Our temporary staggered start and finish times will remain in place throughout the Spring and Summer terms with the support of our siblings plan. We will continue to expect parents and carers to minimise their time on site and to minimise their contact with other families whilst wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing. The safety of everyone must continue to be prioritised. We ask you to be respectful to others and to follow the safety measures.

The snow last Sunday was incredible, more snow than we've seen for a long time – the huge flakes filled the sky all day where I live – it was stunningly beautiful! My girls were in and out all day making snowmen and snow angels. My daughter Blossom made a gigantic polar bear snow sculpture which was bigger than my car! I do hope that you all enjoyed making memories in the snow. It was so great!

Most schools in Derby were not able to open last Monday due to the significant snowfall and the overnight frost. The roads were treacherous and the whole school site was entirely covered, with Mr Roberts working out where to start! Mr Roberts worked incredibly hard all day, but we knew with another expected frost that we wouldn't be able to decide if we could open until Tuesday morning. After a very slow and steady journey to school on Tuesday, Mr Roberts and I assessed our site which was covered in patches of ice. The path around the back of our building was the worst affected. This area is always a weakness for us as it is tucked away with very little natural light and limited drainage. On Tuesday morning, it had become a dark ice rink and unfortunately, we had to make the decision for school to remain closed. Mr Roberts continued working hard on site and then the rain came and washed the majority of the snow away!

Staff are now accessing lateral flow tests twice a week. Many people with Coronavirus have mild, or even no symptoms, but can still spread the virus. With regular self-testing we can slow the spread and help protect the most vulnerable in our families and communities. Positive test results will trigger contact tracing and class bubble closures. Close contacts will be expected to self-isolate for 10 days.

A message from Mrs Merriman, our Maths Leader: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February is our MARVELLOUS MATHS day. Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, the NSPCC have postponed the charity day but that won't stop us having lots of Mathematics fun this Friday! You will find the activities for Friday as usual on the Home Learning pages on our website. We aim to practise lots of core Maths skills in a variety of ways to engage the children and allow them to continue to enjoy and make progression with Maths. We look forward to celebrating all the amazing work. The NSPCC charity day will now take place in May.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who are home-schooling their children so incredibly well. We are so impressed with the quantity and quality of work that is being emailed to teachers. We can also see that Education City and the Collins Big Cat eBooks are being well used. **Thank you** – You are doing a brilliant job of keeping your children's education going during these difficult times. Well done!

[Stay Home](#)

[Protect the NHS](#)

[Save Lives](#)

Kind regards,

*Mrs C Diffin*

Headteacher

## Our STAR Expectations

At Cavendish Close Infant and Nursery School, we are all stars.  
Together, every day, we reach for the stars.

<b>S</b>	Super star learners
<b>T</b>	Try our best
<b>A</b>	Able to make safe, healthy, and happy choices
<b>R</b>	Respectful and kind

Together, we can all shine.



### **School Mental Health Award**

We are delighted to announce to our school community that, after a huge amount of fantastic and worthwhile work, we have been awarded the Bronze School Mental Health Award. This is an award that has been received from Leeds Beckett University Carnegie School of Education and Minds Ahead. To achieve this award, we have focused on the development of a strong ethos and culture with regards to mental health advice and support.

We are particularly proud of the work that we have completed so far, including, how we use our 'mood monsters' to enable children to identify and relate to key emotions. We have developed a self-regulation toolkit; we work extensively with outside agencies and we are working towards becoming an Emotion Coaching School. We are trained to use Lego Therapy and we regularly 'check in' on the wellbeing of children, parents, carers, and staff.

We are committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing needs of our school community.

If you feel that you need any support, please contact us as we are always willing to listen and offer/signpost support. You are not alone.

Mrs Orme is our very dedicated and highly skilled Personal Development Leader, and she continues to lead our work in this area. Thank you to Mrs Orme and everyone in our school community that works together to make safe, healthy, and happy choices.



### **Children accessing learning at school**

**During National Lockdown, you must not leave your home except where necessary.**

Parent and carers should only go to work where they cannot work from home. All employers should be facilitating home-working where possible. Please arrange to work from home if you can and keep your children safe at home.

**Parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**

School places are for parents and carers whose work is **CRITICAL** to the Coronavirus pandemic or the EU transition response. They are for parents and carers who need to attend a workplace and cannot work from home. School places are for children where **all** the adults in the household are critical workers.

If families are in a support bubble or a childcare bubble, then a school place should not be required.

Parents and carers can only bring their children to school when they need to leave the home for essential work. Do not bring children to school when you have a day off or you are able to work from home.

If you are able to make alternative arrangements for your children, please do. The fewer children in school, the safer school is for our staff and our school community. Please prioritise safety as infection rates locally and nationally remain hugely concerning. School staff have not yet been prioritised to be vaccinated.

A number of our most vulnerable children are now attending school. Unfortunately, we are still not able to offer school places to anymore of our vulnerable children until the overall number of children in school reduces or it becomes safer to do so. Many of our vulnerable children have complex and additional needs which require specialist and consistent support. We are continuing to manage staffing shortages and we must dedicate quality time to our remote education provision and support for families at home. We will continue to provide high-quality support for all children who are safely staying at home and we will tailor support to the needs of families. 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. We have many strict control measures in place to minimise transmission risks.

### **Nursery Provision**

We have worked hard to offer on site provision for Nursery children where this has been requested by parents and carers. This is because the government have said that Nurseries should remain open where possible. For our school, this is a complex task due to the number of children who attend our Nursery and the number of Nursery children with additional needs who require specialist intervention by trained and familiar staff. Our Nursery bubble is now over 30 and the increased risks have been explained to Nursery parents and carers.

Mrs Howett's Nursery daily home learning plan is fantastic, and we are grateful to the Nursery parents and carers who have chosen to home-school their children until transmission rates are lower and it feels safer to return to a busy environment.

We will endeavour to continue to support our most vulnerable Nursery children and the children of Critical Workers for as long as possible. Additional Nursery places are subject to staff availability. Our Nursery offer and risks will be regularly reviewed.

When Nursery parents and carers arrive at school to drop off or to pick up, they must wait outside of the Nursery gates in a line, 2 metres apart.

### **Children who are well and attend school:**

- Need to wear extra layers to keep warm in our well-ventilated classrooms.

**If your child is not well, do not bring them to school.**

### **Adults who drop off and pick up children from school MUST follow our COVID safe Expectations:**

- **Only one adult** can drop off/pick up. Avoid bringing older siblings unnecessarily. Parents and carers should not be waiting with or for friends.
- **All adults on site must wear a face mask** as social distancing is difficult.
- **All adults must maintain social distancing at 2 metres.** Stay 2 metres away from people who you do not live with and keep your children with you safely.
- **Arrive on time** to drop off or pick up. **Do not come up to school before your allocated time.** All adults must follow the one-way system on site. Leave the site safely as soon as you can.
  - **DROP OFF AND MOVE ON**, leaving the school site promptly.
  - **PICK UP AND MOVE ON**, leaving the school site promptly.
- **Do not gather** in a group with other parents and carers as this is not safe.
- **Households cannot mix in cars.** You must not share a car with anyone from outside your household.

Unfortunately, we are still experiencing a small number of parents who are making no attempt to cover their face or to maintain social distancing at 2 metres. This makes our staff feel very vulnerable. If there is a genuine reason why you do not feel able to wear a face mask or face shield for a short period of time on our school site, please contact us so that we can develop a safety plan for you and our school. Please be respectful and consider the safety of others. All doors have a yellow semi-circle painted around them, 2 metres away from the door. Parents and carers must not step into this safe zone.



### **Children accessing learning at home**

Children who are at home are expected to be engaging with learning activities during school day hours. Please work with us to keep your child learning every day. Your children's education matters. It's as easy as this:

Go to our school website [www.cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](http://www.cavclosei.derby.sch.uk)

Click on the **Home Learning** tab.

Click on the **Year Group – Home Learning Pages** tab.

Click on your child's year group **Nursery**, **Reception**, **Year 1**, or **Year 2**.

**Click on the Home Learning for the day.** There are also other lessons and resources that you can click on to support your child's education.

- We send children's home learning plans directly to parents and carers mobile phones in a text message using 'Teachers 2 Parents' every school day morning at 9am.
- We have distributed over 10 digital devices to families to support home learning.
- We have distributed over 15 data cards to families to support home learning.
- We are distributing over 30 paper packs every week to families to support home learning.
- As a Christmas present, we gifted children a learning bag containing a pencil case and stationery, an exercise book, a work book and a picture book so that all children can access learning.

Also, on our website in our Home Learning tab, you will find a **Story Time** tab. Here your children can watch the teachers and Teaching Assistants that they know reading stories that link to the home learning plans. This week Mrs Redfern and Miss Richardson have added stories.

**Education City** - [www.educationcity.com](http://www.educationcity.com)

All children have their own Education City accounts and can use this online platform to access educational activities. Teachers update activities regularly and monitor usage.

### **Phonics and Reading**

The teaching of phonics is fundamental in supporting children's ability to read. All children take part in a daily 'Word Wise' lessons in school where they are taught to recognise graphemes (letters) and the phonemes (sounds) they make and practise blending these to read independently.

As part of the Key Stage 1 home learning offer, children can now access a daily **Word Wise video lesson** which is led by one of the year group teachers. On the video, the teacher will talk through the presentation slides in much the same way as they do in school. These videos have been created to enable the children at home to engage with and enjoy these vitally important Word Wise lessons. Please support your child's learning of phonics by accessing these videos every day from the home learning pages on our school website.

**Collins Big Cat Phonics eBooks** - <https://ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/>

All children have their own Collins eBook accounts and can use this online platform to access reading books that match their phonics ability. Teachers update books regularly and monitor usage.

**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.**

Class bubble teams (Teachers and Teaching Assistants) will continue making weekly **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 miss a call, please **email** your child's class teacher to rearrange a call at a convenient time. Keep in touch with us. We want to hear about what your child is succeeding with and what they are finding challenging.

**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 and support 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 offer by listening to our parents and carers.

Thank you for your incredible support and positive feedback – It is muchly appreciated.



### **Keeping children Safe**

The best interests of children continue to come first for the Safeguarding Team. We will do all that we can to support our children and their families during these challenging times.

**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](mailto: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.



### **Parents and Carers with Children who are eligible for Benefits Related Free School Meals**

We are using the Government's 'Edenred' supermarket voucher scheme as our kitchen team do not have the capacity to provide food parcels for our eligible families.

We have over 90 children who are eligible for **benefits related** Free School Meals. Supermarket vouchers are emailed directly from 'Edenred' (the Government's chosen voucher supplier) to families. Parents/carers should check their junk mail as the email could be sent there. The Government are funding £15 a week for each eligible child. As a school, we have chosen to extend this offer to our eligible Nursery children (£15 for 30-hour children and £10 for 15-hour children). All e-Codes have an activation date and cannot be used until that date. All e-Codes are 16 digits long. If you experience an error redeeming your voucher, delete the browsing history on your device and try again. A user guide is available here: <https://www.cavclosei.derby.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ParentUserguide.pdf>

If you continue to encounter difficulties, you can email 'Edenred' directly:

[freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com)

Mrs Manners can be contacted about your eligibility and our voucher offer by email:

[admin@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk)

Our school kitchen will reopen today after another Coronavirus related closure. We are hopeful that we will be able to maintain our hot meals service in school. **All** children who attend school will be able to access a funded hot meal.

**If your child attends school full time, you will not receive a voucher as your child can access a hot meal at school. If your child attends school for less than 5 days a week, you will receive a £10 voucher.**



### **Contacting School**

Email contact is preferable as members of the administration team are working from home. Please email the most appropriate team and we will aim to reply within a reasonable amount of time.

#### **Senior Leadership Team**

[leadership@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](mailto:leadership@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk)

(Mrs Diffin (Headteacher), Mrs Howett (Deputy Headteacher and Early Years Foundation Stage Leader), Mrs Asghar (Assistant Headteacher and Key Stage 1 Leader))

#### **School Office Team**

[admin@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk)

(Mrs Tusa, Mrs Kelly, Mrs Manners)

#### **Safeguarding Team**

[safeguarding@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk)

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

#### **Inclusion Leader**

[senco@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](mailto:senco@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk)

(Mrs Vincett)

#### **Year Group Class Teachers**

[nursery@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk) (Mrs Howett)

[reception@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](mailto:reception@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk) (Mrs Smith, Miss Brown, Mrs Orme)

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

[year2@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk](mailto:year2@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk) (Mrs Merriman, Mrs Asghar, Miss Harker)

### **Spring Term 1 2021 – Monday 4.1 to Friday 12.2**

Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Maths day.</b> Children can enjoy Marvellous Maths all day.
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>E Safety day</b> – Children will learn about how to stay safe online. School breaks up for a half term holiday.
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	

### **Spring Term 2 2021 – Monday 22.2 to Thursday 1.4**

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>World Book day.</b> More information to follow.
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Comic Relief day.</b> More information to follow.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	School breaks up for the Easter holiday.

### **Summer Term 1 2021 – Monday 19.4 to Friday 28.5**

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Bank holiday.</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>INSET day 4</b> – Staff training.
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	School breaks up for a half-term holiday.

### **Spring Term 2 2021 – Monday 7.6 to Thursday 22.7**

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>INSET day 5</b> – Staff training.
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	School breaks up for the summer holiday.

### **Autumn Term 1 2021 – Thursday 2.9 to Thursday 22.10**

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>INSET day 1</b> – Staff training.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Key Stage 1 children will return to school. Early Years Foundation Stage children will be given staggered start dates.