

Cavendish Church of England Primary School

Newsletter - Summer Term 2020

Friday 22nd May 2020 No: 032

Challenge, Creativity, Compassion: Create a pure heart in me – Psalm 51:10



Prayer of the week – by Amelia and Harley

This week our prayer is for Revd Mitchell on his retirement.

Dear God,

We send good luck to Revd Mitchell in his new job and new house.

We send our gratitude for his support of the school and our blessings for his new adventure.

Thank you for coming to see our plays and all our church services.

We hope he has a lovely time.

Amen

I am sure you will all wish to join me in wishing Revd Mitchell a very happy retirement. Revd Mitchell has been our village priest for eight years and has supported us in our half termly church services. Revd Mitchell has also been instrumental to our governing body and has worked tirelessly on many committees over the years. We wish him and his family well in the next stage in their lives, and suspect he will find plenty of occupation in his new setting. It is very sad that we have been unable to have our shared time of thanks together, but Revd Mitchell has kindly agreed to return and visit us towards the end of the year, or when we are all able to be together again, so the children have an opportunity to say goodbye and wish him well.

Revd Mitchell writes:

To the Head, Staff and Governors of Cavendish Church of England Primary School

So long, farewell, Auf Wiedersehn, Good bye, Adieu...

It is with sadness I write a brief note to say Thank You to All Pupils, present and past, parents and carers and the wonderful Staff team headed up by Miss Wass as I come to the end of my time as Rector (Vicar) of the Stour Valley benefice which includes Cavendish. I should also say thank you to the Governors who are a hard working group of people bringing skills to the life of the school ensuring that the very best learning opportunities are available for all pupils in Cavendish Church of England Primary School.

My role as Governor has been combined with that of Vicar, often needing to wear two hats at the same time. It has been challenging and enjoyable and I'm also grateful for the opportunity to have been a very small part in the lives of the pupils and staff at Cavendish. There have many services in church, the stories from the Bible that have been told with imagination, the singing, the Nine Lessons at Christmas and a Leaver's Service each year. Sadly as things are at the moment we shall not be able to do that this year in church. When I left school at the age of 16 I was never sure if all that I had the opportunity to learn would be of any use. Gladly I can report that a lot of it did. Even Algebra! Now as I leave school again after 8 years there is much I have learnt and maybe will be able to use in the next part of my life in retirement. School will return to normal in the weeks ahead, thank you to all for making the best of a difficult time.

God bless you, and be safe.

Stuart Mitchell

Foundation Governor

Key Worker Provision

The school will continue to provide Key Worker provision for the summer half term week (25th -29th May), including the Bank Holiday Monday. Please confirm your requirements for this week in the usual way. As this is the traditional half term, children do not need to attend in school uniform, but should still bring their lunch, water bottle, tissues and a hat. You may prefer for your child to apply sun cream at home. Please note that as stated in our sun cream policy staff cannot help children to apply their cream at any time.

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Wider School Opening – phase1

There has been much media coverage about this, and the school has developed a strategy document with the agreement of staff, governors and Suffolk County Council's School's Excellent Officer, which sets out how the government guidelines and advice can be safely applied to our own setting in Cavendish.

Safety and wellbeing of both staff and pupils remains our paramount priority.

The school has offered continuous provision throughout the lockdown period, including school holiday periods and Bank Holidays. We are proud of the commitment our staff have shown.

Phase 1 – extended offer

A key part of the strategy is to manage numbers safely within each setting. Children should not be on-site in groups of more than 15 children. The children of key workers and identified children remain the government's top priority for on-site provision. In the event of a higher take-up by families than the school can safely manage, the following is the recommended order of priority:

1. Key worker children and those identified as vulnerable
2. Reception
3. Year 1
4. Year 6

This is why we asked last week for key workers to confirm their requirements, as this will impact on our ability to offer provision to all the groups listed above. For example, should the school have a high number of key workers and identified children, it may not be possible to offer on site provision to Year 6, because of the need to meet our safety assessments on site.

After carefully reviewing the layout of the building, staffing and wider considerations such as entrances, exits and the need to support pupils not included in phase 1, we have assessed that we can accommodate three groups of 15, and each of these will be based either in one of our two largest classrooms (each with its own outside door), or in the hall which will be turned into a teaching space to enable appropriate spacing of desks.

Philosophy of approach

The key concept in the phase 1 approach is create independent working "bubbles" in a separate class space, thus minimising the amount of interaction any one group has. Each bubble group will have its own eating and play arrangements and the school will not operate on its previous free-flow fluidity of movement. Spaces are allocated as full time places, as it will not be possible under current guidance to "mix and match" children into groups of 15. Therefore once provision is offered, it is done so on a full time basis, ie, for the whole day, 5 days a week and children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (if offered) are expected to attend full time under the government guidelines about reintegration. This includes Key Worker children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (if offered). Key Worker children who have a confirmed place from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 are also welcome to attend full time, as their allocated desk cannot be used by anybody else.

Each child will have their own desk, stationary equipment and work materials. The school's strategy document and accompanying risk assessments cover a wide range of considerations such as cleaning arrangements, safe movement around the school, staggered timings, which aspects of the curriculum may be taught, pupil and staff well being, as well as physical safety.

Full details of arrangements will be sent next week, or if the date of 1st June does not meet the government's 5 point measure, then in the week prior to school wider opening. The wider school offer return date is not confirmed either by the government criteria or Suffolk County Council. **Currently ONLY Key Worker children with a confirmed place should attend school on Monday 1st June.** Once school opening is confirmed, we plan a phased integration and each teaching bubble will be informed of their start date. We are having this phased opening so children can be fully aware of safety measures within their own bubble.

The arrangements also include your role as parents and carers, including access times and how to observe social distancing on the slip road and outside of the school gates. It is important to note wider expectations as well. All staff have been rigorous in strictly following government criteria during lockdown in their own personal lives, as every one of us is mindful of the role we have to protect children and our colleagues, by minimising risk and exposure. We look to families to support this and to adhere to the same standards as part of the wider school community.

Attendance

Once phase 1 is in place, staff will resume the use of daily attendance registers and absences will be recorded in the normal way.

Following the government guidance, it is important to note that any child who is ill, or any child who does not feel unwell but is displaying covid-19 symptoms, should NOT attend school, and we are asking families to err on the caution during this phase. Any child displaying symptoms of:

- Temperature
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell
- Loss of taste

(as specified 19.5.2020)

will have their parent or carer informed for immediate collection, and will be expected to self-isolate until a negative test result is received. Any siblings in attendance will also require collection at the same time.

Government guidance states that any child from the on-site school offer year groups and who is attending school, is eligible for testing. Any person over the age of 5 is also now eligible for testing. Children will be allowed back into school once a negative test result is confirmed with a copy sent to the school, and they feel well enough to attend.

Families with children in eligible year groups who choose not to accept on site school provision will have the absence recorded, but this will not be reported to the Educational Welfare Officer, and families will not be fined for non-attendance in this phase.

Two government publications are available to help parents:

- Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers (11 May 2020)
- What parents and carers need to know about schools, colleges and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak (11 May 2020)

Each family will need to make its own decision, and whilst the school is committed to sharing information, it cannot give individual advice.

We will communicate again next week with further details and confirmed year group offers.

Off-site learning provision

Off-site learning packs will still be provided to years 2, 3, 4 and 5, (and year 6 in the event of being over-subscribed), although the government anticipates this provision may be reduced once numbers in school increase. We would still want to commit to supporting families for whom no on-site provision is possible and the wellbeing calls will continue along with the packs.

For children in year groups where on-site provision is offered, it will not be possible to provide a home learning pack, as the planning focus will be for provision in school. All children will still have access to the resources and log-in codes provided during lock-down.

Learning Pack 4

As half term is next week, Monday 25th May, it is really important the children have this week as relaxation and rest with their families. If you have not already collected Learning Pack 4, the school remains open next week. Please phone the school in advance for the pack to be left on the table outside so that social distancing can be observed. Key Worker children who attend school on Monday 1st June should bring their learning packs with them.

School Meal Provision

Please note there will be no hamper collection for half term (week beginning Monday 25th May). We will be contacting families of Free School Meals from Monday 1st June as the hamper arrangement may change through the catering company support for wider school opening.

Staying Safe Online

Please see below a link you may find helpful which has plenty of useful tips and strategies and is able to be read on phones and tablets. There are articles on home schooling, managing emotions during this period, ways to keep kids occupied, and much more:

www.triple-parenting.uk.net/uk-en/special-editions/positive-parenting-during-covid-19-uk/

Stour Valley Transition

For Year 6 children due to transfer to Stour Valley School in September, the school has asked us to remind parents to return the admission pack to them directly, if not already done so. Stour Valley will remain in touch with parents regarding transition information.

Diocese Support

As a Church of England school we are part of the wider Christian community and the Diocese wishes to express their thanks and gratitude to families in supporting their children at this time. You may wish like to click on the following link which is an expression of gratitude and thanks.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home/i-am-parent>

BBC Bitesize

The BBC is offering additional home learning support through their Bitesize service, as well as additional radio and television programmes which may be of interest to you. The school Learning Pack should be your first priority but we would encourage families to explore a wide range of learning resources for your own curiosity.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

Guidance is available from the Department for Education to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. The helpline details are as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours are 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Reading and Relaxation

'Five on a Treasure Island and Five go off to Camp' by Enid Blyton

Reviewed by Benjamin, Saturn Class

Of the two, my favourite book is 'Five go off to Camp' and so I am going to review this book.

Type of book – They are both children's adventure stories.

What were the books about? One book is about a shipwreck and finding gold ingots and the other book is about finding out the truth about spook trains, the black market and hiding places.

The Characters In both books George, Julian, Dick, Anne and Timmy are the main characters.

The Plot In Five go off to Camp the children go off to camp with Mr Luffy. They meet a boy called Jock and go off on an adventure to look for spook trains. They find out what the spook trains are up to and the black market hiding place.

I liked these books because it was an adventure book and it was interesting.

My favourite character in Five go off to Camp was Jock because he had had no adventures and now he had a big one.

The best part of this book was when they found out what the spook train was up to.

Recommendation 1-5 stars *****