



CUMBERLAND INFANT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Herbert BEd

Saturday 2nd January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope everybody in the Cumberland Community has enjoyed a restful and very different Christmas! Over the Christmas holidays it has really emphasised to me the importance of some of the more simple things in our lives, such as a seafront walk, even in the rain! Playing a new game as a family and enjoying lots of laughter and good food.

Last few weeks of term

On reflection of the last few weeks of term, I still can't believe that on one of the days we had one hundred percent attendance in the whole school. That is an amazing achievement but especially in a pandemic! The children loved receiving a WOW sticker for all being at school and were so proud!

On the last Wednesday, Father Christmas visited on his bicycle delivering sacks full of presents to each class. He also left the school a very special present of two, very cute Guinea pigs, which are currently racing round their cage squeaking as I write this letter, it was certainly magical! The guinea pigs are still waiting to be named as we wanted the Frosties back in school to help decide.

I hope you all liked your gift the children made you in school, I must thank the Sugar Puffs for my colourful bowl which was greatly received. On behalf of all the staff at Cumberland, we would like to send our deepest gratitude for all the generous gifts we received, we really can't thank you enough!

Return to School on Monday 4th January 2021

After the government announcement on Wednesday 30th December eventually we were made aware that all Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Portsmouth will be returning on Monday 4th January 2021. When the government makes these announcements, all staff actually find out at the same time as everybody else, schools do not receive any of the information prior to the country hearing! Over the next few days there will be lots of media and union coverage and information. If there are any changes to Cumberland Infant School opening you will be contacted by parent mail to let you know. Please contact me by email head@cumberland.portsmouth.sch.uk if you have any questions or require any further information.

I know that the announcement of Cumberland Infant school remaining open and children returning to school on Monday 4th January will have created very different feelings in so many. We have and will continue to work tirelessly to reduce the risk of infection and keep the Cumberland community safe. Our current risk assessment is on the website under COVID-19 if you require more information in what we are doing in school to minimise the risk of infection.

Reducing the risk of COVID-19

We all play a part in trying to reduce the spread of this virus so please could you continue to wear your face masks when picking up and dropping off. When queuing to pick or drop your child off there will be a spray painted marker for you to ensure you are 2m apart even with your mask on. The staff will keep their distance from you at drop off and pick up but we all remain contactable by email or by telephoning the school. There will be extra cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and shared areas throughout the day. I have my gloves and anti-bacterial spray all ready for Monday!

If your children feels unwell in anyway but especially with a continuous cough, a temperature or a loss of taste and smell please do not send them to school. If they develop any of these symptoms at school we will contact you to pick up your child. Please ensure we have your current mobile number and email address. If anybody is being tested in a child's family please keep your child off school until a negative result has been received. If your child has been in contact with a positive case please do not send them to school and contact the school if unsure when the ten days self-isolating should begin.

Children Wearing Extra Layers

I know the children will be excited about being back with their friends and we will remain in class bubbles until infection rates in Portsmouth begin to lower. The staff are looking forward to seeing all the children returning and hearing all about what Santa gave them. We will be continuing to ventilate the school by having the windows open even with the colder weather we are experiencing at the moment. Could you please ensure your child has extra layers such as vests, long sleeved tops under their normal school shirts and socks over tights or two pairs of socks! Staff will be in their thermals and layers too! P.E will also be taking place outside unless it is raining so please ensure your child has jogging trousers or leggings, and a long sleeved top to go under their red T-shirt. A woolly hat and gloves may also be useful during these cold winter months. Please ensure all your child's clothes are named so if your child loses an item of clothing even a pair of socks or gloves they will get them back.

Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast and After School Club will continue to run in bubbles but After School Club will continue to **finish at 5pm**. Breakfast is served until 8am and tea is served between 4.30 and 5pm.

Christmas Nativity DVD

We have been made aware that there were problems in viewing the Nativity and it could only be viewed on a laptop or computer. If you have not been able to view it yet please let me know by email and send the DVD back into school in your child's book bag. We will ensure you have the Nativity performance, which you can view on a DVD player. We will be putting the alternative Cumberland Nativity 2020 on the website over the next few weeks. If you have not ordered your DVD yet you have until Friday 8th January 2021.

INSET dates

Our INSET dates are on our website but I thought I would add them to this letter as a reminder.

Friday 12th February 2021

Friday 28th May 2021

Thursday 22nd July 2021

Friday 23rd July 2021

We are looking forward to the Cumberland Community being back together and the school being full of rested staff, chatty children, and two squeaking Guinea Pigs!

Please do not hesitate to contact me on head@cumberland.portsmouth.sch.uk if you require any information, reassurance or have any further questions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Becky Herbert

