CUMBERLAND INFANT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Herbert BEd

26th February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I would like to start by thanking all our families for their engagement in remote learning that has taken place since January 2021. I know it hasn’t been easy and there has been frustration, upset and some battle of wills but in contrast there has been progress, pride, hard work and dedication to achieve so much learning! I think since the Government’s announcement on Monday, there has been more feelings of hope, lots of sunshine and a light at the end of the long dark tunnel.

It gives me great pleasure to be welcoming all the children back to school on Monday 8th March 2021. I know there will be some mixed feelings about the children returning to school but I know the children will be super excited about seeing and playing with their friends.

The children at home and at school seem to be really enjoying their new topics. YR have loved Supertato, particularly making their own vegetable superheroes, Year One and Year Two have been very busy learning their texts about Percy the Park Keeper and The Iron Man.

**Return to school**

The children will be returning to class bubbles and all the measures to reduce the risk we had in place in December will remain. Our risk assessment is on the website under the COVID-19 tab. I know for some parents that they may be apprehensive but in contrast relief that they no longer have to juggle work and teaching their child/children.

As a reminder the staggered start and finish times will remain the same.

Year One drop off at 8.40 and pick up at 3.05. Crunchy Nut Cornflakes via the green door on Reginald Road and Frosties through the pencil gate and black gate on Methuen Road.

Year R drop off at 8.50 and pick up at 3.15. Rice Krispies via the green door on Reginald Road and Cheerios through the pencil gate and black gate on Methuen Road.

Year 2 drop off at 9 and pick up at 3.25. Kraves via the green door on Reginald Road and Sugar Puffs through the pencil gate and black gate on Methuen Road.

Please ensure your child/children return to school with their book bag, P.E kit and all clothes named so if they do lose anything it gets back to them.

Unfortunately parents will continue not be allowed into the school building and we encourage you to contact staff via email or a telephone call.

**School dinners**

School dinners will be available and it is menu three. The children will continue to have their lunch in their classroom and be served their hot dinner on special trays.

**Breakfast and After School Club**

Breakfast and After School will resume in year groups but classes will be separated within their areas so bubbles are not burst! Breakfast club will be running from 7.30am and breakfast will be served until 8am. If your child arrives after 8am they will not be served breakfast as the children go outside to play as close to 8am as possible. After School Club will run immediately after school and if your child is not staying for tea please pick them up before 4.15 from the pencil gate. If your child is staying for tea then please do not pick them up before 5pm as they may still be eating. All children will need to be picked up by 5pm until the Easter Holidays. We will be reviewing the timings of After School Club after the Easter holidays when we hope to return to a 5.45pm pick up.

**The last week of remote learning**

For many children, the return to school maybe rather a shock with an early start and a long day. It may be helpful that next week your child/children are introduced back to a routine similar to school. Such as an 8.30/9am start and even getting dressed in their school uniform. Having a visual daily countdown to returning to school may help your child understand the number of days it is.

**Extra snack**

The children will be provided with a fruit snack as usual but to help them have enough energy and stamina to keep going until the end of the day, please provide your child with a healthy snack to have in the afternoon.

**Extra Layers**

Although it is definitely becoming warmer outside, school remains rather chilly due to the opening of the windows to ensure all rooms are ventilated. Please ensure your child is wearing extra layers such as a long sleeved top under their school top and extra socks.

**Catch money from the government**

Once the children return on Monday 8th March we will be assessing the children to gauge their progress since December. We will be making decisions on who and how we will be using the Government catch up money during the four weeks leading up to the Easter Holidays. Alongside this we will putting an emphasis on physical development in YR and P.E in Y1 and Y2, PHSE through story for children to talk about their feelings and continuing with all our topic learning.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me by ringing school or emailing me on, [head@cumberland.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:head@cumberland.portsmouth.sch.uk)

All the staff appreciate all your kind words and support during these difficult times and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March 2021.

Becky Herbert