

A NEWSLETTER FROM



MS ELBOURNE-CLOAD



HEADS UP

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Wednesday 1st September 2021

We hope you have all been having a lovely summer holiday. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new and returning children this Friday 3rd September.

Returning to School and Covid measures

I have been keeping up to date with the latest National and County guidance for schools and I am pleased to say that, fingers crossed, school life will be looking a lot more like it used to pre-Covid. We still need to be very mindful of the need to keep everyone safe and so we will be continuing to ensure regular hand washing and well ventilated rooms and cleaning of touch points. Although we will no longer be having formal bubbles, the children will continue to work in their class groups for the majority of the time. We will now be having more mixed activities outdoors for clubs and playtimes. We will also be having hall assemblies but will keep a gap between each year group to minimise mixed indoor contact. Research has shown that keeping CO₂ levels low through good ventilation links with reduced transmission, and so we have purchased monitors for each classroom and communal areas so that we can ensure good air circulation.

If children show any Covid symptoms they will need to stay at home and parents/carers are advised to book a PCR test. New government regulations now mean that if a child or fully vaccinated member of staff is classed as a close contact of a positive case, they will no longer need to isolate. If we have multiple cases in school we do need to contact County and they will advise us of next steps but, if that were to happen, we would communicate with parents in the usual way. Our latest risk assessment for Covid will be found on the Cunningham Website from the start of term.

As a result of these changes, we are very pleased to share that there will be changes in school this term. Firstly, school start and finish times will revert to normal:

	Start times	Finish times
Infant School	8.50am - gate open from 8.40am but parents to wait with children until they go into class (please continue to use the one way system)	3.15pm - collection from classrooms (please use one way system to reduce congestion)
Junior School	8.55am - children dropped off to the large playground from 8.40am where there will be an adult on duty (we ask parents not to wait with children - Y3 parents can wait until the end of the first week)	3.20pm - children to be collected from classroom doors for year 3 and 4. Year 5 and 6 children can come out to parents on the playground or walk home if we have written permission from parents.
Wrap around care	Early Birds children will be walked over to the infants or allowed out on the junior playground at 8.45am	Junior school children will go to Owls from class. Infant children will be collected from their classrooms and walked over to juniors by Owls staff.

Illness/absence

We have to be accountable for every child not in school by close of registers so please inform the schools by 9am if your child is absent to reduce office time spent on phone calls. This allows us to focus on any child whose non-attendance may be of concern.

Lunches

Children will now all be able to eat lunches in the dining rooms. The infant children will choose their lunch in class, except Reception children whose parents will need to pre-order on Parentmail - further details will be sent out in the next few days. Junior school parents will need to order and pay for meals in advance on Parentmail - please ensure your child knows and is happy with the food choice you have made.

Medical Care Plans

If any children have, or should have, medical care plans or Asthma forms please contact the school office on the first day of term to ensure we can update/write these.

Contacting school

Just a reminder that there is a lot of information available on our Federation website (www.cunninghamhill.herts.sch.uk) and this would be the best place to go to answer general questions or check dates in the first instance. You can also contact the schools via:

admin@cunninghamhill.herts.sch.uk for both schools,

juniors@cunninghamhill.herts.sch.uk for the juniors,

infants@cunninghamhill.herts.sch.uk for the infants.

Any emails for teachers or other staff will be forwarded from here - please put FAO and the staff member's name in the subject box. Communication from school will usually come in the form of a Parentmail so please ensure we have the correct contact details for you and that your alerts are enabled on the app. Please do not use the learning platforms (Google Classrooms/Seesaw/Tapestry). Teachers will respond when they are able, however if you have an urgent communication it is better to phone the school or talk to the teacher at collection time.

Parents visiting school

Although we are pleased to welcome back face to face contact, where possible, we would still continue to ask any visitors to school for a face to face conversation, including drop off or collection, to wear a facemask if possible.

Dates and Meet the Teacher Evenings

We will shortly be sending out a Parentmail with important dates on, but 'Meet the Teacher' dates are below. It is important that a parent/carer attends if possible, even if you have had a child through the school, as there are some changes this year that it is important that you are aware of:

Meet the Teacher Evenings	Infants - Tuesday 7 Sept	Juniors- Wednesday 8 Sept
5-5.30pm	Reception	Year 3
5.30-6pm	Year 1	Year 4
6-6.30pm	Year 2	Year 5
6.30-7pm		Year 6

Learning Feedback – Parent Information Evening

One of the things you will hear about at the Meet the Teacher Evening is that we are changing the way we give children feedback on their learning. To find out more about this in detail we are hold a parents' information evening in the Junior School at **7pm on Wednesday 15 September** for parents across both schools.

Clubs

We will be sending out the details for clubs to sign up to next week for the Juniors and in the next couple of weeks for the Infants. We would ask that all Junior children take part in at least one active club and would encourage infant children to take up a club, where available. We are aware that there has been a limit on the provision we have been able to provide in the last 18 months, so we are very keen for the children to get back to a wide extra-curricular provision. Where clubs have a limited number, names will be taken out of a hat and the children who are not given a space this time will be given priority next time.

We are looking forward to an action-packed term and to working closely with you to give all our children a great start to this new school year.

Ms Elbourne-Cload