

# OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER



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Executive Headteacher:  
Mrs. A. D. Best-White MA  
Head of School Mrs. K. Connelly



Issue 1 Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Dear Parents

It has been so great to be back in school with all the children. Thank you to everyone who has helped us to settle the children back in. I am sure that many of you have felt nervous about the return and your support, positive feedback and trust have been so important to all the staff. Thank you.

The children have been amazing! They have been quick to learn the new routines we have in place, they have followed their teacher's instructions and listened to how the school now needs to operate. The school has been calm and full of eager children ready to get back to learning.

My favourite things about being back are seeing all the smiling faces and hearing the noise of chatter and laughter back in our building.



## PE kit days

All pupils need to come to school in their PE kits on the days that have PE and Games. The days are as follows for each year group:

**Year 3 Monday and Thursday**

**Year 4 Monday and Tuesday**

**Year 5 Monday and Friday**

**Year 6 Monday and Wednesday**

Please understand that there may be days when the pupils are wearing their kit and they do not do PE or Games. If they are wearing their school uniform on PE days they will still be required to take part in PE. Thank you for sending your children ready in their kit.



## Walking to and from school

We have been asked by the Government to encourage all families to walk, where possible, to and from school. This is to minimise the number of people using public transport, sharing cars with people who may be from different households and to ease the issues of traffic congestion outside schools. Please walk if you live close by and are able and help keep our roads outside school clearer and safer.

## Social Distancing Outside School

This week we have been working extremely hard to make sure that all the children are safe and following the risk assessments we have in place in school. We are following Government Guidance at all times. The bubbles are kept separate all day in school. I have received some emails from parents and carers saying that they feel the end of the day is not operating safely. We have therefore changed the entry and exit gate for Year 4, so that they can use the gate at the top of the field, leading to the Recreation Ground. I needed to have agreement from the Parish Council that this was possible. This has now been agreed and should make a significant difference to the amount of people needing to use the Church Street gate and therefore help keep the paths less busy.

We have staggered the times so that the bubbles are separate. If you have a 3:15pm collection, please stand nearer the gate to wait for your child. If you have a 3:20pm collection, please stand out of the way until the first year group have left school and moved away from the gates with their adult. This will now only apply to year 5 and year 6 as year 3 and 4 now have separate gates.

In order to help us all keep safe – we need your help. Please wait patiently for your child to come out of school. Please maintain social distancing when waiting outside school. You may need to queue on the pavement and wait for your child to be ready to leave school. You can see that we are trying very hard to make sure that the children come out safely to you. Please do not shout to them or encourage them to run over to you. Everything is taking longer at the moment so please wait until your child is dismissed by a member of staff. When you have your child with you, please do not congregate with other families. Please make your way home promptly so that the school gates are clear.

Thank you for working in partnership with the school, ensuring that we are doing everything that we can to make the busiest times in the day safe for all of our community.

## Extra drink in the packed lunch box

We are finding that in the warm weather the children are thirsty! If you are providing a packed lunch, please include an extra lunchtime drink, (e.g. a carton of juice or flavoured water – no fizzy please!) Thank you.

### Cashless Payment System – ParentPay

We are moving over to a cashless payment system in school. Parents/Carers should have received a text message with a link to our website and further information about this new system. You should also have received, by post, your individual details to enable you to activate your account. We are currently taking payments for school lunch via this system however this will be increased over time to include school uniform payments followed by school trips and events, as and when we are able to run them. The system also enables us to include electronic communication and consent requests regarding activities and events. We would therefore encourage all parents/carers to activate their accounts ASAP so that they are ready for such a time that you will require them.

The teething problems we were experiencing at the beginning of this week have been ironed out and the system is working fully for lunch payments. If you are experiencing any problems with the new system please do contact the school office via telephone 01603 426973 or email [office@oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk) and we will be happy to help.

### No bags in school!

Just a reminder that we are not allowing school bags into school. The only items allowed into school are a named lunch box, water bottle and coat. If medication is required in school this will need to be taken, by an adult, to the front of school and signed in with a member of staff.

### Sanitary items for girls in school

Without having their bags in school on a daily basis, we are aware that many of the girls may want to have their own toiletry bag in school to keep their sanitary items in. This may apply to the girls who have started their periods and the girls who would just like the security of knowing that they have their own bags in school should they need them. We fully understand this.

If your daughter would like to bring a toiletry bag into school, it will need to be named and it will need to stay in school.

Their class teachers can keep their bags safely and privately in their rooms so that if they need access to them we can discreetly help them to use them in school.

Any pain relief for period pain needs to be treated as medication and signed in at the front of school as with any other medication needed in school.

We also have an emergency supply of sanitary items in the school office and we will make sure that the girls know that if they need them, we can help them access them in school.

All members of staff are aware that this may be an issue for the girls and one that is personal and sometimes creates anxiety. We want to make sure that all the girls feel supported and comfortable with this important area of their personal development. Please contact us if there is anything you would like to discuss further.

### Stars of the Week!

Congratulations to the Stars of the week– wonderful work and attitudes shown; what brilliant role models we have in our school.

6KR Zofia Kurek  
6KR Logan Thulbourn  
6LR Jack Barnes  
6LR Catherine Baker  
5GS Josiah Brick  
5GS Summer Webster  
5JS Evie Brittain  
5JS Erik Ristache  
4C Amelia French  
4C Benjamin Pereira



4N Danny Chen  
4N Maisie Prendergast  
3C Alfie Worthington  
3C Skye Ward  
3E Ella-May Brown  
3E James Langmead

### Attendance Cup

5GS and 5JS won the attendance cup for their attendance this week with an attendance of 100% - Well done!

## TALK HOMEWORK & WOW WORDS

Each week we send a Talk Homework activity and 'Wow' Words home and we would be very grateful for your support.

We are trying to help all our children develop excellent speaking and listening skills, which in turn will help them with their writing. "If a child can't say a sentence then they can't write it either!"

Social Distancing is a term that we didn't even know 6 months ago. It is now one we have used so much we feel that it's been part of our vocabulary for ages! But why is it so important? Why do we all need to practise this and help each other to make sure it happens in our own communities? Talk to your families about this and get ready to feed back to your class on Friday.



In Big Talk, we use '**WOW**' Words to improve our vocabulary and 'big up' our sentences to make them more interesting!

*Our 'WOW' Word this week is*

**Social Distancing**  
(put distance between yourself and others, keep yourself and others safe)

Please encourage your child to use this WOW word, in the right context, as much as possible.

- The 'Talk Homework' and 'WOW' words will be set every Friday in the newsletter; children will then share their 'Talk' with their class on a Friday afternoon.
- We will encourage the children to use the WOW word throughout the week.

Thank you for your support in helping your child.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great weekend!

**Mrs K Connelly.**