



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Crossdale News - we hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter!

Each class has a blog page where information for your child's class will be shared; please ensure you subscribe to this by clicking the link at the top of the page. If you aren't receiving notifications of blog entries, please check that you are subscribed to the blog page or speak to your child's class teacher; this is an important way to stay up-to-date with what your child might be doing in class as well as a way of us communicating important information to you.

Best Wishes,

Mr. Cresswell, Mrs. Westie & Miss Seedhouse

A Thank You from Mr. Cresswell

We are all finding the current situation incredibly challenging. Life in school can certainly be tough in this climate and I know most of the staff, like me, are tired and sometimes struggle to manage the ever-shifting expectations of education ministers and the government! In this context I would like to thank our Crossdale community for the incredible support we have received in recent weeks: a parental donation that has allowed us to buy multiple electronic devices, supporting home learning so enthusiastically, a home baked cake or a kind message sent by class email - the support has meant a great deal to us and has really helped on tricky days. I hope you are all well and I look forward to a day later this year, when life will surely begin to feel more normal, and we can welcome all our families back to school.



Devices for home learning

If your child cannot access a laptop or tablet and is consequently struggling to access our home learning offer, please get in touch. Due to a hugely generous donation by a Crossdale parent, we have some devices we can loan to families.



Child Mental Health Week

1st – 7th February 2021 marks Place2Be's 'Child mental health week'. We will have some assemblies and activities to share with the children, either in school or via Seesaw, but should you wish to discuss this topic with your children at home, [this video](#) is a good tool for a conversation starter.

Capacity for children of critical workers and vulnerable children in school

After 4 weeks of lockdown, we are finding that some bubbles in school are close to capacity. We do not want to be in a position where we are unable to safely accommodate all vulnerable pupils and pupils requesting a critical worker place in school. Consequently, please be mindful of the following before booking a critical worker place in school:

*'Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**' (DfE)*

"If you're a key worker and your partner doesn't work then you shouldn't be sending your children to school. That's clear in the guidance." Matt Hancock, Health Secretary

I am not sending this information to make parents feel guilty or to contradict information that employers have sent out – these are challenging times for everyone, but I have a responsibility to share guidance with you and urge parents not to send their children to school whilst transmission rates are so high unless it is necessary. For some families I totally accept that it is necessary some days, or every day, each week - we are here to help those families.

If we do find bubbles exceed capacity, which is already close to happening on some days, we may have to introduce a priority system meaning we cannot accommodate all requests for places. I am currently consulting with our chair of governors about how we might prioritise places.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at all.

School staff – Covid19 Testing

From this week, staff in primary schools are being asked to use a covid-19 self-testing kit twice a week and report their results to the DfE and to school. The aim of testing is to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19. Testing will help identify and isolate more asymptomatic people who might otherwise spread the virus.



If a member of staff tests positive, we will need to notify parents and close, or partially close, bubbles in school. The length of time a bubble is closed will depend on the outcome of a second test the staff member will need to take. Although this testing regime aims to make our school safer for staff and children, it seems likely that there will be some disruption as a result of any positive tests that may not ordinarily have been detected.

For parents accessing our critical worker provision in school, it would seem sensible to ensure you are familiar with our home school offer using the Seesaw app. This will enable your child to access education in the event of a bubble being closed.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Hand Sanitiser in school

If your child wishes to bring their own hand sanitiser into school, please ensure that this contains a **minimum of 70% alcohol**, as anything below this does not meet the required standard to be classed as virucidal. Not all hand sanitiser has enough alcohol to be protective against coronavirus (some only have 50% alcohol), where the required amount is 70% minimum. We ask that should your child bring their own hand sanitiser into school, it is stored in their classroom tray for health and safety reasons.

