



# New Cangle Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Ms Jacqueline Brading

7<sup>th</sup> March 2022,

Dear parents and carers,

## COVID-19 Update

Following the changes in advice about Covid-19 at the end of February, please be aware of the following:

- Pupils who have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms should still stay at home, order a PCR test (until 31<sup>st</sup> March as free testing will end on 1<sup>st</sup> April) and avoid contact with others whilst awaiting the result. This is current guidance by the government but will be updated on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- Although the legal requirement to self-isolate has ended, adults and children who test positive are still advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>
- If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, we can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with Covid-19.
- Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and routine contact tracing has ended - children and young people who are contacts should attend their education settings as usual. The legal requirement has been removed for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- We continue to follow control measures in school, such as increased ventilation and handwashing to prevent the spread of Covid-19. However, staff will no longer be testing twice weekly for COVID-19 as lateral flow tests are no longer being supplied by the government.

## Red Nose Day 18<sup>th</sup> March

We are looking forward to joining in with Red Nose Day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. The School Council have decided that they would like the following events to take place, in order to raise money for Comic Relief:

- Non-school Uniform day, where children can wear their own clothes (and red noses etc.) and are also encouraged to come with a funny hairstyle. A payment has been set up on Gateway for parents, with a suggested minimum donation of £1. We request that all parents who are able make a donation – for Children in Need in November, only 50% of all parents did so.
- Bake Sale – the school council are asking parents to send in donations of cakes which they will sell on the day. Please send in your bakes on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, along with some coins for your child to spend. It is vitally important that, due to allergies, bakes MUST CONTAIN NO NUTS OF ANY KIND OR SESAME SEEDS/OIL.



## Ukraine



Many children have expressed that they are feeling worried or concerned about the situation in Ukraine. This is especially the case for our older children who are exposed to a lot of information online, much of which may not be factually accurate or may be intentionally shocking, in order to gain more traction/views. Below are some links to articles that parents may find useful to talk to your child about the situation, should they be aware of it. As a school, we are not intending to do any fundraising for the situation in Ukraine as we feel that it is not appropriate for our younger children to raise this topic in school. We are also fundraising shortly for Red Nose Day and do not wish to burden parents. However, if parents do wish to do something to help the people of Ukraine, I have included the link below to the Disasters and Emergency Committee Appeal, which is the best way of getting direct and local help to people during difficult times, rather than sending goods across Europe which may not be suitable or wanted.

- Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)  
<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>
- Help for families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation (Department for Education)  
<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>
- Children Commissioner Article about why we should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week)  
<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>
- How to talk to children about what's happening in Ukraine and World War Three anxiety (Metro)  
<https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/24/how-to-talk-to-children-about-whats-happening-in-ukraine-16163133/>
- Disasters and Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal  
<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

## Start of Day Reminders

- School starts at 8.40am and children are expected to be in school at this time. However, class doors remain open until 8.50am and children should not be brought in through the front office between 8.40am and 8.50am. Parents must drop children off at the class doors.
- After 8.50am, class doors and the school gates are closed and children who are late must be signed in by their parent at the front office. Parents must not drop off children at the top of the steps and leave them to walk in by themselves.
- We request that parents do not drive onto the school grounds at the start or end of day, unless permission has been given, as this traffic is dangerous for other parents and children who may be waiting or walking on the drive/path.
- The bushes at the front of the school have recently been cut back and this has left a lot of sharp edges. It is important that children do not play in these bushes before or after school, for their safety.

## Parental Survey

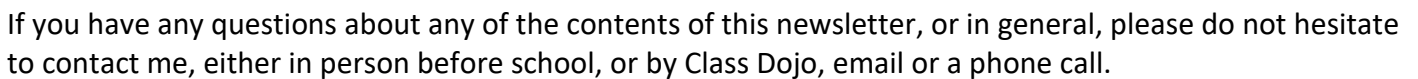
Thank you once again to all parents who took the time to fill out the survey on Parents' Evening or at home. We had 100 surveys completed and are really pleased to see that parents overwhelmingly feel that their children are safe in school, teaching is good, staff have high expectations and that our communication is good.

	Agree or strongly agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child feels safe at school	99%	71%	28%	1%	0%	0%
Teaching at New Cangle is good	100%	65%	35%	0%	0%	0%
My child is making good progress	98%	57%	41%	1%	1%	0%
My child likes school	95%	60%	35%	2%	3%	0%
Staff encourage my child to become more mature and independent	98%	64%	34%	2%	0%	0%
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best	100%	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Most children behave well	90%	36%	54%	6%	4%	0%
The school provides appropriate homework	91%	37%	54%	4%	4%	1%
I am kept informed about how my child is getting on	96%	46%	50%	0%	4%	0%
The school gives me information about events and activities	100%	61%	39%	0%	0%	0%
The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	95%	48%	47%	4%	1%	0%
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem	98%	60%	38%	1%	1%	0%
I find it easy to contact my child's teacher	100%	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%

Where the survey has highlighted pockets of issues with behaviour or homework, we will be looking further into these areas. The other most frequent areas that parents raised in the comments section, that related to the whole school rather than individual children or classes were:

- **More parents' events in school** – We would definitely like to have more events in school and hope that the summer term will see the return of 'Learning Together' class events, as well as Friends of the Cangle events, such as the summer fair. Parents can also help make the Friends events more frequent and successful by volunteering to help out.
- **More varied range of after school clubs/more after school clubs** – One of the disadvantages of being a small school is not having as many staff who are able to offer clubs during or after school. For staff wellbeing, we do not require any staff to run clubs unless they feel they have the time to do so. Unfortunately, one of the challenges of planning, resourcing and marking good lessons mean that many staff do not have time after/during school to run clubs. Furthermore, at the moment, nine members of staff are involved in the School Led Tutoring Programme, which means that a lot of staff are busy after school, or doing extra before school. If parents are interested in any particular sports clubs, I can request that Prestige run other clubs after school, so please do get in contact. If any parents have a particular skill and would like to run a different kind of club at school, this could be arranged (subject to Safeguarding requirements) so please get in touch. It may be that some staff will be able to offer different lunch or after school clubs, once the School Led Tuition Programme ends.

- Thank you for all the kind words about what you like most about New Cangle, which were too numerous to put on this newsletter. However, I have represented them in this Word Picture:



*J. Brading*

Headteacher