

Cantrell Primary School Newsletter 10th February 2021



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE. Dear Parents, it's the last week of the half term, next week we can all take a well-deserved break from home schooling. I know it has been a tricky period for you and that home schooling is sometimes challenging. As a working Mum to three teenagers I have seen first-hand how much of a juggling act this is. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and well-done, staying positive and engaged has not been easy – I know! We will all be taking a break from home schooling and having a non-screen day on **Friday 5th March** – more information to follow! Watch Dojo and EExAT for more information.

You may be aware that our former caretaker Mr Brandwood was sentenced at the crown court last week after pleading guilty to possessing indecent images. I understand this is very upsetting and may raise concerns, but I would like to assure you that these offences did not relate to anything in school or involve anyone in school, but in his private life. As soon as these matters came to light, appropriate action was taken and he was suspended from his duties and no longer lived on the school site. We were unable to communicate this to you before the court appearance. If you have any questions at all, please contact us directly through the school office. Feelings of shock, anger and disappointment, to say the least, have been felt throughout our school and we understand you feel the same as we do.

As we look forward to next term, we remain hopeful that we will have everyone back with us very soon. We have **Monday 22nd February** as an **INSET** day so we do not expect any children to be working at home that day and school will be closed to all pupils. We are hopeful that in the weeks leading up to the proposed opening date of 8th March we will get clear guidance as to how the government wants this to happen, as soon as we know anything we will get information to you. Have a good break, you deserve it! We will see you either virtually or in our key worker/vulnerable bubbles on **Tuesday 23rd February**.

HOME LEARNING PACKS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 23rd FEBRUARY. These will be available to collect from Friday 12th February from 1 - 3pm, or Tuesday 23rd February 10am – 12noon and 1 – 3pm.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS. An electronic voucher will be issued to all parents in receipt of income based free school meals to cover the period 15th – 19th February. We will send an individual e-code to the email address we have for you by Friday 12th February.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE. We are writing to again ask you to work with us over the half term break to continue the fight against the virus. If your child or any of your children develop coronavirus symptoms within 2 days of their last day at school and then subsequently test positive for coronavirus, or if they don't have symptoms and undertake a coronavirus test within 2 days of their last day at school, then you should contact us via email to admin@cantrell.nottingham.sch.uk. For example, pupils who attend school on the last day of term on Friday 12th February, this would mean notifying us of pupil symptoms developing on Friday 12th, Saturday 13th, or Sunday 14th February. To get a test use the NHS COVID-19 app, via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling NHS on 119. Many test results are now being received 48 hours after the test. We will make sure staff from our school will be available from Saturday 13th February to Thursday 18th February from 10am to 11am and 1pm to 2pm to receive your messages by email at admin@cantrell.nottingham.sch.uk. We will then, as a school, take advice from Public Health England in terms of notifying other children, families, school staff or bubbles to self-isolate.

TESTING FOR STAFF. We know that one in three people who have the virus have no symptoms and could be inadvertently spreading it to their family. For this reason, we have introduced Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) to our staff. This means that individuals who have no symptoms will test themselves twice a week to check for the virus. The aim of LFT is to reduce transmission and therefore help to stop the spread of the disease. Therefore, if a staff member of a bubble tests positive on a test taken at home, the bubble will close temporarily whilst a PCR test (the main Covid-19 test) is booked. We will be in contact on a Sunday evening/Monday morning and a Wednesday evening/Thursday morning if we have a positive case.

COVID WINTER GRANT SCHEME. The Winter Grant Scheme is now open to Nottingham City residents in receipt of Council Tax Support, with or without children. With rising food costs, the Council hope this extra

support will ease the strain on some families to help them through these difficult times. 10,000 vouchers are currently available as part of this scheme and selected applicants will be chosen on a first-come-first-serve basis. The scheme ensures successful applicants are issued with a £50 supermarket e-voucher to help with food and essential supplies. Who is not eligible? Residents that are currently in receipt of the following benefits are **NOT** eligible for this grant (Criteria updated as of 2nd February): Means Tested Free School Meals; Support Grant from HMRC/Local Authority; Self-Isolation Payment. Apply online here <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-winter-grant-scheme/>.

***** COMMUNITY NEWS *****

Nottingham City Libraries. Enjoy exploring a world of books with your child [here](#). **BorrowBox** for Younger Readers. **eReads** are not just for adults you know! From picture books, classics, humour, adventure and spine-tingling chillers - with something for every age and taste it will soon become their favourite new app! **Deny All Charges**, *Eoin Colfer* | **Shoe Wars**, *Liz Pichon* | **Daisy and the Trouble with Nature**, *Kes Gray* | **Little Monsters**, *David Walliams* | **Free-Range Freddy**, *Rachel Bright and Izzy Evans* | **Goldilocks in Space**, *Peter Bentley*. Free downloads for kids, young adults and adults. A great selection of titles to read and listen to on your PC, laptop, smartphone, tablet or iPad.

Nottingham Contemporary. Workshops are on hold but the Play and Learn Team have been busy planning lots of family activities. If you haven't already, take a look at their [Virtual Reality tour](#) of the exhibitions and join in with their [Family Explorer Activities](#) from home. To keep your mind and body creative, try the [Play & Learn Family Activities at Home](#), there are also activities you can do outside. Some of the activities you can do with everyday objects, however others might require a few art materials. If this is something you would like, they can post free material packs out to you. If you are a little unsure trying activities at home here's a few tips from the [Play and Learn Team](#) who share their thoughts about creating a space for playing and making at home.

Free online fitness. Family Lives have joined forces with Sport England to offer free online classes to local families in Nottingham. There is no charge for the classes, nothing to join and no contracts to sign. Their aim is to keep the children of Nottingham Fit and Active through lockdown and beyond. All they need is parents' name, age and number of children wanting to take part, and an email address to send the Zoom link to. They have a range of family classes e.g. Kids Capoeira; Yoga; Zumba. Telephone 0808 800 2222 or email askus@familylives.org.uk. How can Family Lives help you? If you would like support or advice:

- Free confidential helpline on 0808 800 2222
- Email them for support at askus@familylives.org.uk
- Talk to them online via their [Live Chat service](#)
- Online advice, peer support and information on all aspects of family life at www.familylives.org.uk
- Face to face support groups and workshops

Festival of Science and Curiosity



Mon 8th – Weds 17th February - Online

Despite every challenge, the Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity is back this February with a packed programme of events and activities accessible for all the family.

This week-long festival takes Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths out of the lab and into everyday lives. There will be live demonstrations, and activities to take part in at home from quizzes, to word searches and colouring through to experiments like Ice and Spaghetti Composites where mixing two materials together can produce the best of both worlds! Or, why not go on a Back-Garden Scavenger Hunt? Can you find all the objects on the list in your back garden, or in your local park? There is also a festival magazine! articles, puzzles, activities and experiments to try out at home, there's something for the whole family.

<https://nottsfosac.co.uk/w/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/festival-2021-magazine.pdf>