



WOODHALL SCHOOL



www.woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Woodhall Lane, South Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD19-6QX.

Telephone: 0208 428 3447

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Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will have seen the news that the government has announced some new measures to deal with COVID-19 and also a change to its overall response, moving from the 'contain' to the 'delay' phase of its plan. As before, the advice remains that effective hand hygiene and using a tissue when coughing or sneezing are some of the most effective ways in which we can help reduce the spread of the virus. The school is continuing to do all that it can to minimise the spread with good hygiene and is following all the advice from Public Health and Herts County Council and as such, we believe there is no additional risk to students and staff.

Self-isolation and staying at home

As you know the government has widened their advice on who should self-isolate to include those that have coronavirus like symptoms - a new or continuous cough or a high temperature, however mild - should stay at home for at least 14 days to protect others and help slow the spread of the disease. All our staff will be expected to follow this advice, and we ask you to ensure that your children do so too. If your children are absent from school because they are ill, please continue to call the school every day on 0208 428 3447 and leave a message.

Those who are particularly vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have now been advised to 'socially-distance' themselves.

In certain circumstances you may be advised by medical professionals to keep your child at home even if they are not unwell. If this is the case please let us know and we will support your decision. I understand that parents are concerned about the risk of their children catching Coronavirus and that some may wish to keep children at home even though they have not had any medical advice to do so. All children who are well enough to come to school should continue attending as normal unless advised otherwise by Public Health England.

The possibility of school closure

Some parents have asked whether we could choose to close the school now. If we are ordered to close the school by Public Health England, because there is a risk to children/students and staff we will do. If the government make a decision to close all schools we will do so, otherwise we will stay open and operate as normal. **The Government has made it clear it expects schools to remain open unless public health advice has been given to close. This is based on the clear advice from the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government, Sir Patrick Vallance, on how best to manage this epidemic.**

We are however preparing in case the school closes and we are currently putting workpacks and online activities together. We recognise that if closure is necessary this will have significant implications for many of our families with issues ranging from the loss of free school meals to problems for families finding suitable childcare.

Keeping informed

Obviously, we will continue to provide updates as the situation continues to develop and would ask that you inform the school of any contact your family may have had with a person with symptoms or who has tested positive.

We currently have some highly vulnerable members of staff who will need to follow government guidance to self-isolate/socially-distance. We may have further cases of staff who need to self-isolate, socially-distance, care for relatives or are absent for separate health issues. The school is continuing to do all that it can to minimise the spread with good hygiene and is following all the advice from Public Health and Herts County Council and as such, we believe there is no additional risk to students and staff.

POSTONEMENT OF EVENTS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

The following events will be postponed until further notice:

Date	Event	Postponed/cancelled
20.3.20	Year 2 class assembly	POSTPONED
27.3.20	Year 1 class assembly	POSTPONED
31.3.20	Easter bonnet parade	CANCELLED
1.4.20	Year 3/Year 4 production	POSTPONED
2.4.20	EYFS Easter celebration	CANCELLED

SCHOOL PICK-UP

From tomorrow (17.3.20), you will be able to pick your child/children up at any time between 3-3.30pm (avoiding everyone picking up at once). Year 5/Year 6 parents should come via the main (front) school entrance.

Year 6 breakfast club will continue to run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am.

Our other breakfast club will continue to run.

Film Club will continue to run.

At Woodhall, the staff are all trying our very best to deal with this unprecedented situation in the most sensible way possible and by following all advice given. Thank you for your continued support. Take care, and if there is anything else that I can do to help you, then please just let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lake
Headteacher

Where to find the latest information:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>