



WOODHALL SCHOOL



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Monday 2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, the news that we have all been long-expecting came along at the weekend, and the nation will once again be in lockdown from Thursday 5th November. Here we go again!

The difference this time is that schools will remain open to *ALL* pupils. However, the latest government guidance will have an impact upon how we operate at Woodhall over the next few weeks...

Staff

Some of our staff fall into the *EXTREMELY CLINICALLY VULNERABLE* category (not just 'vulnerable') In order to protect them, they will be working from home during the lockdown period. Miss Leo will not be in school, so we will be merging our Nursery and Reception classes into one 'Early Years Unit' during this time, run by Mrs Bilenkyj, Mrs Wenham, Miss Barton and Mrs Pottinger. Miss Leo and Mrs Roby will be in regular contact and we hope to arrange for Miss Leo to Zoom in with the children! Please rest assured that the children will receive the same high-quality learning experiences and excellent provision as usual during this time.

Mrs Roby will also be working from home. She will be pioneering remote teaching with Year 1 for some lessons, as well as Zooming in regularly so that the children can talk to her and read to her! The children will have a familiar face teaching them every day, as Mrs Sieban (the regular supply teacher) will be in every day.

Mrs Mangan will continue to come in to supervise lunchtimes (working outside) but she will not be in class for the duration of lockdown.

Mrs Roby, Miss Leo and Mrs Mangan are all following these guidelines with very heavy hearts and would much rather be in school. However, Woodhall is a community and we all look after each other. At the moment, it is really important that they stay safe by working at home. We will miss them!

Some of our staff fall into the 'vulnerable' category and we will be making sure that we do everything we can to minimise their risk of contracting COVID-19.

Parents

Thank you for wearing face coverings when dropping-off/picking-up. Times of the school day will not change. We hope that these are working for you and we really appreciate your patience. Please remember that everybody needs to be socially-distanced. Other schools have stopped parents from waiting on the school grounds, but we do not want to do this. It would be very helpful if you arrived at the time your eldest child finishes school – this will ease any congestion!

We will not be able to hold our usual parents' consultation evenings this term. After discussing many options, we have decided that the most helpful way forward is to send home short report sheets, as well as the children's own 'reflect and review' sheets. We will also be offering follow-up phone calls should you require. All of this will be explained on the letter accompanying the report.

If your child has an IEP (Individual Education Plan), you will be contacted by phone to talk through targets etc.

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher for any other reason, please contact them via email (this is the best option), or by phoning the school. Any face-to-face meetings will continue to be held in our Community Room, which can be accessed by the separate entrance (the one used by Nursery/Reception) on Woodhall Lane.

Attendance

Attendance rules and procedures will not change during the lockdown period, as school remains open. For advice related to attendance in light of COVID-19, please refer back to the previous, detailed letter which can be found on our website.

Christmas Cancelled? Not on my watch!!

We all know that Christmas will be very different this year. However, that will not stop us from celebrating all things festive in the Woodhall way...

Christmas Fundraising: look out for our raffle and other exciting fundraising events, including a family quiz.

Early Years/Key Stage 1 Christmas Plays: will come to you via the Facebook page and the school website!

Children's Christmas dinner will happen as usual – please look out for the letter.

Carols by Candlelight: we are working on finding the best way forward for this annual event (Zoom is no good due to the time lags) To be announced!

And introducing...our very own **Woodhall 'See Our Tree' Festival**, where each class will design their own class Christmas tree and parents will be invited to come and enjoy a hot drink and mince pie whilst looking at all of the trees.

We need your help with this...if you have a Christmas tree that you no longer need 9and are willing to donate it to school) please let Sue or Nikki know.

I will continue to update you as further guidance is received/if guidance changes. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support and please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Take care and stay safe,

Miss Lake