



# WOODHALL SCHOOL



[www.woodhall.herts.sch.uk](http://www.woodhall.herts.sch.uk)


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Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020


Dear Parents/Carers,

So...we've made it through a solid 15 weeks of the Autumn Term without being locked down or having to close any of our bubbles! This is thanks to the effort of the whole school community – children, parents, staff, governors – who have followed COVID guidance and, by doing so, have ensured that we have stayed safe and have protected our most vulnerable members. It hasn't been easy for anybody, and I want to say a heartfelt and huge  to all of you.

Back in September, the children came back to school (after 6 months away) and we put our 'recovery curriculum' in place, giving the children time and space to talk about and process their lockdown experiences. As usual, the children at Woodhall stepped up to the challenge of 'catching up'. They have all worked so hard this term and we are **VERY** proud of them. You will have received/be receiving their 'Reflect and Review' sheets. Please spend some time talking to your child/ren about these...recognising and celebrating their successes, exploring the learning they have found more tricky, and talking about their next steps. Our next parents' consultations are scheduled for February and we will let you know in due course about the format these will take (depending, of course, on government guidance) In the meantime, you are always welcome to get in touch with class teachers via email.

## Staffing

As you may know, we do have some extremely vulnerable staff at Woodhall who have been working from home since the second lockdown. Depending upon various factors (the vaccine, the local R rate etc.) this may continue to affect class teaching. We will always strive to keep things as consistent as possible for the children under the current circumstances.

This term, we say goodbye to our fabulous Nursery teacher Miss Leo. Miss Leo has been with us since 2017 and has been a complete asset to the school. We are going to miss her...but hope that she will be able to come in to say hello once the COVID situation has changed. 

We also say goodbye to our Game On Coach Vicky, who has worked at Woodhall for the past 6 years. Coach Vicky is embarking on an exciting new career in the prison service. We wish her all the very best, and welcome our new coach, Daniel, to Woodhall.

Some really exciting news...the Woodhall Family will be extending! Huge congratulations to Mr Hancock and his wife, who are expecting their first baby in January. Mr Hancock will disappear for a few weeks but don't worry, he will be back!

It's also many congratulations to Mr and Mrs Bilenkyj, who are expecting a new arrival in summer 2021. So you may notice a growing bump in Early Years!



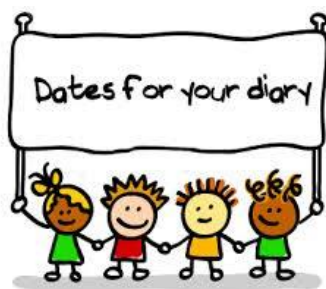
## Scooters

Children will be welcome to bring scooters back into school from January. These will be stored outside for the day. Please do not allow children to ride scooters once on the school grounds, as we have lots of toddlers, buggies etc. and we would hate for anyone to be knocked into.



## Dates for the Spring Term

Here are the dates for the start/end/INSET days for next term. In January, I will send out a more detailed list of dates. Drop-off and home times will remain the same until further notice. If anything else changes (for example, if schools are advised to close) we will let you know as soon as possible.



Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Children back to school
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Meeting for prospective Nursery/Reception parents/carers
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	INSET day – no children in school
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> -Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Half-term week
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Children back to school
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term

## Early Years



Applications for both Nursery and Reception are open...spread the word! Application forms for Nursery are available from the school office or website. For Reception, the closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January and applications must be made via the County Council. We hope to have a meeting for prospective parents (as long as guidance allows) on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 1pm. If you know somebody who is interested in an Early Years place at Woodhall, please tell them to get in touch. If they email me, I can send out details.

## COVID: Holiday Information

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 over the next few days, please notify me as soon as possible so that I can complete the relevant track and trace processes with Public Health. I will then notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and need to self-isolate. Please report all positive Covid-19 cases to: [head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk) . Please do not email the normal attendance address, as this will not be covered during the holiday.

Please remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> Main symptoms of coronavirus are: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, a loss or change to sense of smell or taste.

If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that you or your child has Covid-19, please consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

After the Christmas break, please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:

- your child has symptoms of COVID-19

- your child or any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at half-term activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- your child has not completed the full 10 day isolation period requested.
- your child has returned from one of the restricted countries abroad. (10 day isolation period is required)

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, please visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)



Don't forget that we have a (private) Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/woodhallps>

On behalf of all the staff and governors at Woodhall, we wish you a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Thank you for your ongoing support this term. You are a fantastic school community and we are all really proud to work here. Please take care and stay safe. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back at school in January 2021!

Miss Lake

[head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk)

***Need help in the holidays? Here are some useful numbers:***

***MIND Network – National Crisis Line 01923 255391 [www.hertsmindnetwork.org](http://www.hertsmindnetwork.org)***

***Refuge (Domestic Violence) Helpline 08082000247 [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)***

***Step In Food Hub 0208 428 6725 [www.ascend.org.uk](http://www.ascend.org.uk)***

***Samaritans 116 123 [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)***

***Sudden Bereavement Help 0800 260 0400 [www.sudden.org](http://www.sudden.org)***

***National Debt Line 0808 808 400***

***Citizens Advice Bureau 0208 515 8321 [www.threeriverscab.org.uk](http://www.threeriverscab.org.uk)***

