



WOODHALL SCHOOL



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Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this update finds you all in good health and keeping warm in the chilly weather! Thank you so much for the feedback that you have been sending to me and the class teachers. We have been overwhelmed with photos, emails and news of the brilliant things that you have been doing during lockdown. You are doing an amazing job! Please do remember that you can only do your best. We are here if you need help, support or clarification. Your family's social, emotional and mental well-being is just as important as any home-learning task.

There has been lots in the news recently about the differences in what schools are offering as their remote (or home-learning) package, so I thought it might help to clarify the situation at Woodhall.

So here's a round-up:

- We are not expecting children to log on at particular times or for morning/afternoon registrations. We thought that this would be too tricky for families where parents are having to work from home, where children are sharing devices; and that it would cause too much stress for everyone. Instead, teachers send a weekly outline of activities so that they can be fitted in as suits your family.
- Teachers send a daily email to their class. This gives the day's home learning tasks in more detail, provides any video links and also keeps a personal connection between the teacher and their class.
- Teachers are making and uploading various video clips to support learning as appropriate. These are also available on our website. If you would like a particular example (e.g. explaining a piece of maths work) then please ask the teacher to record that specific clip.
- We are providing paper copies of work packs once every two weeks, which are available for collection from school, as well as emailing them out. Many of our families do not have access to printers and we think it helps to have paper copies. Children have also been sent exercise books to write in – these will all be collected in when we return, with prizes awarded for best efforts etc.
- Children (depending on their age) have access to a variety of online platforms through school e.g. Bug Club, Times Tables Rock Stars, Teach Your Monster to Read.
- We know that this is a highly unusual situation, and we want to make it as easy as possible for busy parents who did not choose to be teachers! Parents are always able to email the teachers if they would like extra work. Equally, we understand when there are other things happening in the family, such as illness, which might prevent learning.
- We are celebrating of all the fantastic things that are going on (thanks to you emailing photos in) on our Facebook group.
- We are filming a weekly celebration assembly so that children continue to receive certificates (albeit remotely!) and so that success is always celebrated.
- Children will be sent a weekly 'Lockdown Lowdown' letter with competitions and any other school news.
- Over the next few weeks, we will be trialling 'Google Classroom' with our Year 6 class (more information will follow!) We will ensure that each Year 6 child has sole access to a working device before doing this.

We have tried to make sure that our approach to the school closure is a holistic approach that is personal to our school community, regardless of what other schools might be doing. I would really appreciate any feedback on what you think about the things that we are doing (and any ideas that you think might work at Woodhall!)

Passwords

Many of you have reported having trouble with logging onto the Bug Club site. I have attached a guide that might help with this. If your child has saved their password for Bug Club through Google (in order to log on easily next time), this will stop other children in the family from logging on. If you try deleting this first, and if this doesn't work then hopefully the guidance will do!

New Home Learning Packs

These will be available for collection from school on Monday 18th January between 10am-2pm. The next pack will cover a fortnight's work.

Lynda Bone Memorial Fund

As you know, we recently received the very sad news that Lynda Bone, a familiar face at Woodhall and nan to one of our former pupils, had passed away. Please see our Facebook post. As a school, we would like to raise some money to buy a memorial, of her family's choosing, to celebrate Lynda's life and remember her. We have set up a Go Fund Me page to do this. If you would like to donate, please follow this link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/woodhall-school-in-memory-of-lynda-bone> Please note that this is a separate group (representing Woodhall School only) to that of the local community fundraising page, which has been set up to help fund funeral costs. Thanks to Emma Lordan-Price for organising this for us.

That's all for now!

We miss all of you very much. Please stay safe, stay in touch, and stay Woodhall!

Thank you,

Miss Lake 😊