

Woodfield Primary School

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Monday, 08 February 2021 Dear Parents

It was almost a year ago to the day that I received my first communication about Coronavirus from the Department for Education. It was a poster that told us to wash our hands. Well, here we are a year on and I know I am not alone when I say it has been the strangest year of my life. I can only begin to imagine what the last year would have been like, however, without the support of all our parents, the hard work and dedication of all our staff and, most of all, the wonderful attitude of your children. So I would like to say another big thank you to all of you, and your children, for being so patient, understanding and supportive for the last year. Our staff have all worked incredibly hard to make sure this school has remained open, while also providing an online curriculum that meet all of the children's needs, but it has helped to be part of a wonderful school community that has been so supportive.

So as we come to half term, I still can't tell you about any trips, or competitions, or visitors to our school. But I can tell you that our school remains the warm, happy and productive environment that it was before this started, and it will remain so when we get all of our children back (hopefully very soon).

I regret to inform you that we have had further positive tests this week in school, which has resulted in Year 1 and Year 2 being closed. I received further notifications over the weekend that more children of ours had tested positive, and this again shows how contagious this new variant is. We also know some parents and grandparents are suffering with this illness, and we all send you our best wishes and hope you all get well soon. Since Christmas we have had eleven staff test positive for this virus, and it is highly likely that nearly all of them picked it up from children in school. Again we must reiterate that if you can keep your child at home, then you must do so. This especially applies if one of your children has been asked to stay at home because of their year group bubble being closed: if this happens, then we would ask you to keep all your children at home please, and check them for symptoms.

We have worked very hard to get devices to all of our children who needed them, and many children are now using school devices at home. There is one thing you **must** understand if you are using a school device: for safeguarding purposes, all our machines have software running that send alerts to us if anything inappropriate is accessed (or even typed) into ANY programme used on the device. So if you are writing emails, or browsing the internet, ANYTHING inappropriate will immediately send a screenshot to me, with the name of the device, along with the time and the date. So please remember, dear parents, that these devices are primarily for school use, they remain school devices, so please take care when using them when the children have gone to bed!

As you can see from the table below, the school will be closed to children on Monday 22nd February, and this is also the day of Boris' big announcement. A national plan is expected to be released about how the country will move out of lockdown, and the extended opening of schools will be part of this plan. We hope to have details that week about how schools will be asked to open for more children, but at this stage we have received no information at all about what will happen. We are still working on March 8th as being the date we will admit more children, but which children this will be remains to be seen. It is rather a sobering thought that we will be coming out of lockdown almost a year to the day that we entered our first one. This time last year, none of this had really started. But despite everything, we look forward with hope to the coming Spring and Summer, and hope that we can, as a school at least, return to some semblance of the normality that we all crave.



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Here are the important dates again for the rest of this term.

Friday 12 th February	Break up
Monday 22 nd February	INSET day
Tuesday 23 rd February	School reopens
Thursday 1 st April	Break up for Easter
Monday 19 th April	INSET day
Tuesday 20 th April	School reopens
Thursday 27 th May	Break up for half term
Friday 28 th May	INSET day
Monday 7 th June	School reopens
Wednesday 21st July	Break up for Summer

Finally, I would like to remind all parents that we will be sending ALL notifications via SIMS Parent app after half term, so please ensure that you have this app installed, once you have SimsPay set up. It is vital you set up SIMS Pay first, so it will link to the app. Any problems, please let us know. Again, if we do not have your email address, then please inform us as soon as possible. If we don't have your email, there will be no way of contacting you about when and how schools will be opening up in March.

So it only remains for me to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday, please take care and we will see some of you when we return on Tuesday 23rd February.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Philip Salisbury

Headteacher