



## Woodborough Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Brewis

17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### COVID-19 Update - Regional and Local Advice

This week, Wiltshire schools have received a letter from Kate Blackburn, Wiltshire Director of Public Health, and Lucy Townsend, Wiltshire Corporate Director of People, to advise us that whilst COVID cases and rates across the South West are falling, they remain high in school-aged children and young people.

As a result of the above and in accordance with advice, the following actions will continue until at least the end of November (and more likely until the end of the term):

- We will continue to halt large gatherings such as assemblies and events which involve large groups.
- Staff will wear face coverings in indoor communal areas.
- We will continue with good infection control measures including ventilation, hand sanitiser and touch cleaning.
- We will continue to encourage twice weekly LFD testing and finally;
- We will continue the advice that if pupils/staff are unwell, they stay at home until they are symptom free.

On a local level, we have notified you this week of the increased prevalence of COVID-19 in our own school community and published template letters and advice from communications we have had with Public Health Wiltshire.

In response to our local situation, the following specific actions have been advised and agreed and will continue until at least the end of November (or until there are 14 days with no new cases in the close mixing groups):

- Promotion of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Increased infection control – extra deep cleaning of classrooms where positive cases are identified.
- Maintenance of our usual one-way system for drop-off and pick-up.
- Promotion of social distancing.
- Trips and sporting events off site to be postponed.
- Staff meetings to be conducted virtually.
- Continue to promote and monitor LFD testing – twice weekly for staff members / increased to daily for a maximum of 7 days for outbreak class staff.
- Alternate between heating and ventilating rooms. Open all doors and windows when children are out of class.
- Postpone assemblies / conduct virtually as necessary and possible.
- Separation of classes at lunchtimes / lunch eaten in classrooms in outbreak classes.
- Promotion of good hygiene.
- Sending out warn and inform letters to families.
- Recommendation of daily LFD testing for children who are a close contact of a positive case (household member) while awaiting results of PCR.

In terms of the day to day running of our school and events planned for this term, the actions detailed above will unfortunately bring the following changes:

- Our Year 6 / Reception Class buddy system has been temporarily suspended. We will look to reinstate it as soon as we possibly can because we know how important it is to the children and how much they have enjoyed it thus far this academic year.

- Our forthcoming trips to see 'Jungle Book' at The Watermill Theatre have been postponed indefinitely. The theatre staff have kindly agreed to credit our bookings and we will wait to see which of their future performances will be suited to the children.
- Tours of the school and our Taster Sessions for pre-school pupils and their families will be postponed until the beginning of January. Please do keep spreading the word about our school and encourage friends and acquaintances to visit our school website and follow us on Twitter, etc.
- The PTA AGM planned for 24.11.21, will be postponed / rearranged – further information to follow.
- Swimming lessons for Maple Class will not go ahead until at least the end of November.
- Regrettably, the Key Stage 1 Christmas Performances will not be performed live this year. As per the letter sent to parents on 16.11.21, arrangements are being made for the performances to be rehearsed and recorded in class bubbles.
- Plans for the Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service and other school Christmas events are currently being reviewed and will be shared with you as soon as possible.
- Breakfast Club and Fun Club will continue as usual but will operate in accordance with the Public Health Wiltshire advice detailed earlier.

Woodborough School remains open and, providing children remain well, they can continue to attend school as normal.

We are keen to ensure that education can continue but we will need to keep this under review. Within the last 24 hours, three members of staff have tested positive for COVID-19 and Public Health Wiltshire have advised us that it is likely we have not yet reached the peak number of cases in school. Moreover, the supply agencies through which we source temporary teaching cover have warned of limited availability.

It is highly likely that our staffing plan may be subject to changes over the remainder of the term. Whilst we will try to maintain as much continuity for everyone as possible – interventions for pupils, Parent Support Adviser visits, SENCO liaison, planning time for teachers, etc., flexibility will be necessary.

Please rest assured that it is our intention, in the usual Woodborough School way, to keep on keeping on. Goodwill and resilience are always plentiful and we're always determined to do our very best for our children and families. This is always a busy term and of course Christmas will continue – although it might look a little different to the way we'd hoped. Arrangements will be modified but fun will still be had!

Thank you as always for your continued support and patience as we navigate yet another challenge together. We are grateful for everyone's efforts to be vigilant, keep testing and maintain one another's safety as far as is possible.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sarah Brewis,

Headteacher