



WyreForestSchool



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Communication Specialist

30th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can begin my letter this week with some lovely news amongst all this chaos! It is not only Boris Johnson celebrating the birth of a new baby but also Rachel Wright and Gemma Jacques who both welcomed little boys into the world. Mom's and babies are doing fine and they now obviously start their maternity leave. We wish both families happy and safe times ahead.

The photo's and videos that you are sending are amazing and I have started sharing our newsletter with some of the senior officials at County Hall so they can experience a little joy at the moment. They look forward to a Friday to see what else WFS children have been up to during lockdown.

A massive thank you to all the families who are helping us get PPE equipment. A very special thank you to Adele Fereday who has been amazing at sourcing free PPE. We still don't know what the guidelines will be when we finally do return but at least we are going to be prepared and anything we don't need we can donate.  
THANK YOU.

Please remember if you need help or any further support then just ask. Speak to your class team or ring school or email [office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk)

We have made some changes to our YouTube channel and hopefully now it is a lot more safe and secure to use. If it's not please let us know. As you are aware, this was set up hastily on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March but already has had over 18,000 hits. Incredible work from an incredible staff team.

You are aware that there is a lot of talk in the media as when schools will reopen and get back to 'normal'. There will be a new 'normal' and as you are aware socially distancing in our school is virtually impossible. We are working on what it will look like, but I have a duty of care to my children and my staff and will not put them under unnecessary risk. I think sometimes it is easy to forget that we have families, vulnerable children, elderly relatives that we need to protect as well. As I have said previously we will not return fully open when schools are allowed to reopen and we will carry out a detailed risk assessment – looking at children's health, what understanding they have, what needs they have including medical etc. Children may not have their normal staffing as many of our staff are shielded or pregnant, they may not be in their normal rooms as we will have to space out the children. It will not be easy! Parents who decide to keep their children at home will actually be supporting us and helping us ease back to the new 'normal' and will in no way be penalised. If you do visit school in the meantime please do not take offence at us insisting on a 2m distance from you. Some parents have not been too keen on this but it is to protect you and us. As we know more I will let you know.

Many of you will be pleased to know we are reverting back to our original distributor of FSM vouchers (WONDE) and will no longer be using the governments voucher scheme. The government voucher scheme has not been easy to set up and many of you have not been able to access your vouchers. Hopefully going forward this will all be sorted. Lyn Cole has worked tirelessly on this, so thank you Lyn.

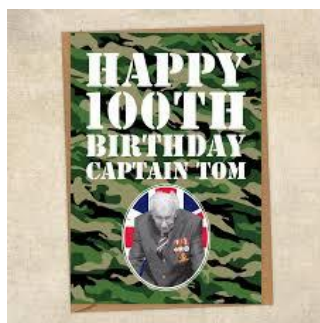
Please can I remind parents to not put staff in a difficult position by asking them to be a friend on Facebook. We have very strict rules for staff on the use of social media and staff have to declare if they are friends with parents (particularly difficult for our staff who are also parents of children at our school). Please also do not feel bad if they just ignore this request. If you need to talk to a member of staff please can you do it through the regular channels.

We also have some pupils trying to contact staff via messenger – please can you explain that they cannot do this and staff will not be returning any messages. Staff are keeping in touch with pupils in the normal and safe channels.

Many of you have seen that children with some needs are allowed additional exercise. If you would like a supporting letter to carry with you explaining why you are out and about we can supply this for you. You need to let your class team or the school know, we will produce the letter and then post it to you.

<http://www.hwsendiass.co.uk/> Please note the new website for SENDIASS – SEND Information, Advice and Support Service covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire. They support parents, carers, children and young people with SEND and their service is impartial and confidential.

Finally, this week, as I write Captain Tom turns 100! A truly amazing and inspirational man and during this time he is exactly what we need. Happy Birthday sir.



Stay safe and remember



Kind regards,

Bec Garratt

Haberley Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6FA. Tel: 01562827785

Headteacher Mrs R. Garratt

[www.wfs.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.wfs.worcs.sch.uk)

Email: [office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk)