

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come towards the end of Week 7 of lock down you may have heard that the Prime Minister will be making some announcements about how they intend to begin to ease lockdown. Part of this, we can assume, will be the gradual reopening of schools. You can rest assured we will keep you informed all the way and ascertain your views regards your child returning to school. These are very anxious worrying times for you as Parents but also for us as staff. As I have mentioned previously, we have a number of staff who are shielded and will not be able to return to school immediately which has many implications. We also have many pregnant staff who I want to protect in any way I can.

The reopening of schools presents many questions;

1. How will pupils on transport socially distance?
2. How can I make sure my staff socially distance when working with complex learners?
3. How can we make sure that pupils with special needs socially distance?
4. How can we make sure that medical needs, intimate care needs and feeding is carried out by appropriately trained staff and what added precautions will be required?
5. What PPE will be required and how will children react to that?
6. Can pupils independently wash hands when instructed to do so?
7. How do we manage the anxieties of pupils(and staff) returning ?
8. What are the procedures if a member of staff or a pupil presents with COVID-19 symptoms once we are open?

The list goes on and on, and there are no easy answers to any of them, but we will speak to you all individually and ascertain your views. We will support you if you decide you do not want your child returning to school until you feel it is safe to do so. We also need you to know that you may want your child to return straight away but our risk assessment of your child states that we cannot safely ensure their or my staffs health to start with, and therefore cannot return immediately. I make no apologies for this because as always, the safety of the pupils and staff at WFS are my main concern.

You may have also heard in the news that the DfE released a notice to modify section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014. This modifies the duty on local authorities to secure special educational provision and on health commissioning bodies to arrange health provision in accordance with EHC plans, so they can discharge this by using their 'reasonable endeavours'.

- This accepts that, when attending school, EHCPs will be disrupted.
- Other children will not receive their EHCP because they are at home and not attending school.

- It also accepts that remote learning is unlikely to support or replace EHCP provision.
- LAs and health commissioning bodies can arrange reasonable alternatives such as delivering therapies remotely or via video.

I think you'll agree the staff at WFS have worked hard to try and support families during these very difficult times and I for one am very proud of them all. We will continue to do so despite this modification.



### Over 2,000 people in Worcestershire are Here2Help

More than 2,000 people in Worcestershire have volunteered with Worcestershire County Council's Here2Help community action campaign. Here2Help is co-ordinated through the dedicated website: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

If you can't access the online forms to offer help or ask for non-urgent help, please call **01905 768053** from 8am to 8pm any day of the week. Someone will be on the other end of the phone to fill the online form out for you on your behalf.

### Speech Language Therapy in Worcestershire

Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust are building a collection of accessible information resources to help children and young people with additional needs or communication difficulties cope with all the uncertainties and disruption during this pandemic.

New resources related to Covid-19 are being added on a weekly basis to their website which you can access at: <http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/sltcovid19>.

For further support, please contact the Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy on email at: [WHCNHS.sltcovid19@nhs.net](mailto:WHCNHS.sltcovid19@nhs.net)

**End of Year Reports** – you will be receiving an end of year report for your child in July but it may look different to what you have received in previous years. Technically because there have been no end of Key Stage tests we do not have to provide one, but I know how much many of you enjoy the photographs that go alongside our reports and I really enjoy reading them all as well.

As no critical workers require provision on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May we are closing the school for Bank Holiday and the VE Day commemorations. I have told all staff to take the Bank Holiday but if you have any emergency safeguarding or parenting concern you can ring **Alison Hopkins (07940 344139)** or **Sarah Evans 07956 787437** between 8.30am – 4pm.

## Safeguarding children

If you have reason to believe that a child, young person or adult is at immediate risk from harm contact the **Police**:

- telephone: [999](tel:999)

If you have any concerns about a child or young person living in Worcestershire and feel that they may be in need of protection or safeguarding contact the **Family Front Door**.

Staff are available Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and Fridays from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

- telephone: [01905 822666](tel:01905822666)

For assistance **out of office hours** (weekdays and all day at weekends and bank holidays):  
telephone: [01905 768020](tel:01905768020)

**PLEASE remember if you need any help or support to speak to your class team, email [office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk) or ring the school office 01562 827785 between 9.30am and 2.30pm and we will try everything in our power to help.**



*Take, stay safe, stay at home and in the words of Vera Lynn;*

We'll meet again  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day  
Keep smiling through  
Just like you always do  
'Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

With Kind Regards,

Bec Garratt

Headteacher