



WyreForestSchool



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Communication Specialist

11th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well. I can begin my letter this week with some good news! The hoist in the pool is finally being built and relocated which means the hydro pool will be up and running for physio sessions for pupils that require it in September. It's been a long fight and I thank the parents and governors who have pressurised the Local Authority with myself, Lyn Cole and John Caldwell who have had meeting after meeting about it. Can I remind parents it is a hydro pool and not a swimming pool so it is used for pupils who require hydrotherapy.

I do become frustrated by some sections of education in the media. I became a teacher to make a difference to the lives of children and before coming to WFS nearly 5 years ago, I had spent most of my career in inner city Birmingham. As schools reopen, I believe parental choice is key, the health and safety of children and staff is vital but we also have a moral duty to support families, especially when times are difficult. We are working hard to ensure we are keeping everyone safe, but that we are also supporting everyone, whether that is pupils returning to school or pupils remaining at home. A tough balancing act!

We welcomed more children back this week with mixed emotions. We are obviously concerned that we get things right for both pupils and staff, but it was a joy to see more children back in the building – I can't tell you how horrible an empty school is. We are training the children in the new systems of anti bac on entry, followed by regular handwashing, following the one-way system and remaining in the class bubble. Tougher for some than others, and it is certainly not the normal routine they are used too; however, they have all tried really hard and I am very proud of them all. Next week we welcome a few more back and keep testing the protocols. If your child is returning to school it is important you follow the information in the separate letter you received and need to be available to collect if they are ill.

Hopefully by now you will have received the staffing for September, and you will have noticed that we have quite a lot of maternity cover!! As promised we have tried to keep class teams as close to how they were as possible. Jean Brown is known to you and the children as she has been with us for some time and will be covering Sian Ackerley's maternity. Connor Smith who will be covering Zoe Wilkes' maternity is also known to you and the children. Connor started as a Teaching Assistant and then trained to be a teacher with us. Chloe French will be covering Louise Fulcher-Insull's maternity and Louise is handing over information and will be helping Chloe meet you and the pupils in her class before the end of term. Louise Calder is a new teacher at WFS but will be known by many of you. Louise worked at WFS, went off

to train as a teacher, has worked in Birmingham for a while and is now back with us permanently and we are delighted. We welcome all of them and I know you will make them feel very welcome while our teachers go off and have their babies and enjoy their time with them.

Russell House will be reopening to residents 7th September 2020, all being well, and further information and guidance will be issued. If you think the next step after WFS will be assisted living, a residential college or independent living, you may want them to try Russell House to get them ready and to prove that this is what they need in the future. We have a couple of bedrooms available and if you want to find out more speak to Abby Baker Head of Care via office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk

Lotte Tvede is busy organising holiday club for the 6 weeks (starting Tuesday 21st July). Due to the fact we will have to have fewer children at club, it is being done on a priority basis. Holiday club is always heavily subsidised by a grant from the Local Authority that we have to bid for. We will have to have increased staffing to meet the health and safety requirements of COVID-19 and this will mean an increase in salaries but we will keep the costing the same. We are still awaiting confirmation from the Local Authority that it can go ahead, but we are more than happy for it to take place on the school site.

Please remember if you need anything or we can help in any way to let your class teams know and we will try and support.

Kind Regards



Rebecca Garratt
Headteacher