

RG / KV

11.02.2021

Dear Parents / Carers

As we come to the end of the half term, I am far more hopeful that we are slowly seeing COVID figures coming down, hospital admissions decrease and vaccination numbers increasing. We have however had some staff going for additional testing because of the South African variant which is a worry. I am hopeful that I will be able to see my mom soon, as it's been nearly a year since I've been able to give her a hug!

Although it's been very cold and snowy, it's nice to see the evenings getting lighter and the bulbs poking through the ground. This lockdown has been so much harder than the first lockdown, and I think the weather and dark days have certainly not helped. If there is anything we can do to help, please let us know. If there is anything we can do better – please let us know.

We continue to have staff and pupils self-isolate having been in contact with a positive case, mainly outside of school. If your child is on transport and someone tests positive on that vehicle, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days. Transport will contact you about this. You will not be contacted by track and trace, because they give the school details and not the individual pupil. Also, you will probably hear directly from transport before we do, so please follow their advice and self-isolate. This has been particularly hard for one vehicle where this has happened a few times.

If your child has been in school this week you must inform me immediately if they develop symptoms on **Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th or Monday 15th February**. You must get them tested and please let me know the results of the test on head@wfs.worcs.sch.uk I will then take the necessary measures of informing people that will need to self-isolate and Public Health. Let's hope that this doesn't happen and everyone can enjoy half term, as best you can, in a lockdown.

Holiday club will be taking place Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th February. Due to the current restrictions this will only be on the school site, the children will be in bubbles and the staff will only work in these bubbles. Lotte has done a great job organising this so everyone has their own space to avoid transmission. You must not send your child to holiday club if they are unwell in anyway as it is not fair on the other pupils, the staff or their families. If anyone tests positive at holiday club, the bubble will have to close as it would do during school time. Let's hope that doesn't happen.

Jo Kehoe, Lotte Tvede, Tracey Birch and myself, will be in early on Tuesday 16th February to ensure all staff working at holiday club have had a lateral flow test before the children arrive. This time last year I never thought I'd be carrying out COVID testing and I very much hope it won't be for too long.

Teachers will not be providing work, delivering lessons or be in communication over half term as they need a break and have time with their families. They will not be checking nor responding to emails.

I have been very proud of all the staff and the different approaches used, dependent up on the child for the remote learning. Families have also risen to the challenge and together I think we can say we have done a good job. The newsletters are testament to this and I enjoy sharing it with several Directors at Worcester Children First – I like to show off our fabulous children and families. However, the cake making is really distracting and I might have to have a baking session myself over half term. Please make sure you too have a break from 'home learning' during half term – you deserve it.

If you haven't signed up to Marvellous Me please do so asap or talk to your class teacher about it. Until we are all signed up to it we will not be able to use it to its full potential. It is a fabulous tool for keeping in touch and sharing great news. Let's see if we can have the whole school signed up by Easter.

After half term we welcome back Zoe Wilkes following her maternity leave which is fantastic news, but we say goodbye to Jean Brown who has covered a number of our maternity vacancies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jean for her dedication and commitment to the children and families of WFS and I am sure it won't be the last time that our paths cross. Thank you, Jean.

As ever I thank you for your unwavering support and wish you all a safe half term, and hoping that Spring 2 brings us all better news.

Yours Sincerely



Rebecca Garratt
Headteacher