

RG / KV

4th March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

This will be my last weekly letter and from next week all communication will come directly through the weekly newsletter.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you have done to make being the Headteacher of Wyre Forest School during a pandemic relatively easy, compared to the stories I hear from colleagues in other schools. I know the staff at WFS have worked hard to ensure the communication and fabulous relationships we foster with children has continued despite the challenges we have faced. We will make sure that this continues after next week.

Personally, can I thank the parents that have kindly asked about my mom. I haven't seen her for quite a while as only one sibling is allowed to go – and my big brother has taken that responsibility. I am very much looking forward to seeing her again and letting her hear all the stories of WFS.

We all know the challenges have not gone away and as I write this, the transmission rate in the Wyre Forest Area has increased again – but together we can hopefully keep to the dates the Prime Minister has set. Here are a few things we are doing to help combat the spread of COVID;

1. Staff have had their first vaccine and are waiting to be called for their second – although this doesn't make you totally immune from COVID.
2. Staff will be testing twice weekly at home before school.
3. The school remains strictly COVID compliant; hand washing, social distancing (where possible), one-way systems, face coverings (where appropriate), respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it AND cough like batman), ventilation/opening windows, operating in bubbles etc
4. Staff teams wiping down surfaces regularly with antibacterial (indoor and outdoor).
5. Emma, our fabulous cleaner, working throughout the school day to wipe contact points eg: door handles, light switches, bannisters etc.
6. No assemblies or eating in the dining room – strictly in the bubbles.

We are still awaiting confirmation from the Department for Education about the home testing for Secondary pupils. As soon as we know – you'll know!

Please do not be offended if staff ask you to move away, especially if you do not wear a mask – we need to protect ourselves and our families as well as yours – social distancing is still very important.

If your child is ill in any way, please do not send them in and if your child shows any COVID symptoms then they must stay at home and get a test. Whilst waiting for the test and results the household must isolate.

We will provide remote learning for pupils who are shielding and pupils who are self-isolating.

I am hoping we do not get any positive cases of COVID at school or on transport but if your child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID then they must self-isolate for 10 days and potentially the bubble will close. Our hydro pool remains closed until at least 12th April (this is when pools and gyms can open) and when a full risk assessment is carried out. I am hoping during the summer term those pupils requiring hydro therapy can receive it.

As Rosie Thorpe is due to go on her maternity leave 19th March, we are really pleased that Matt Birch (who already works in school, knows the children, works at holiday club and already works with Willow class) will be the new class teacher for the rest of this academic year. Emma Downes who has recently returned from maternity leave will be taking on Matt's teaching responsibilities. We are delighted to be able to do this as it will be less disruptive for the children. Matt will be shadowing Rosie over the next couple of weeks to get to know the class routine even better.

Many parents start asking about September classes at this time and I will inform parents of class teachers at some time during the week beginning 7th June 2021. I cannot do this any earlier as teachers can resign up until 31st May and we then may need to make changes.

I am pleased to say we will be running a holiday club over Easter but with the same times of 10am – 2pm (we will still be unable to go off site). Club will operate 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th of April and 12th, 13th, 14th & 15th of April. I am hoping that May half term we might be able to do some off site visits for those that want to and by the summer holiday we will be able to do a few more off site visits. FINGERS CROSSED AND EVERYONE KEEPING TO THE RULES.

We are all looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday,

Yours Sincerely

Rebecca Garratt
Headteacher