



Woodland Grange Primary

NEWSLETTER ~ January 2021

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 @Woodland_Grange

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021

It is with great regret that we find ourselves starting a new year and term under further, stricter lockdown measures. We still remain open for key worker and vulnerable pupils but we know that many more pupils are back to online learning, missing their friends and the school routine. More recently we have had to be much tougher on school places and whilst we know morally this is the right thing to do, we also know the impact it will have on our families and will help in any way that we can.

As ever, we hope things will improve soon and with the new, national vaccination program we know that there are brighter days ahead. School has been a quieter place, although with the larger numbers of children returning, there have been glimpses of normality, even though we are having to keep year groups separate.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our key worker parents who are continuing to perform their role during the pandemic.

Thank you



KEY
WORKERS

Lockdown Learning

For all pupils not in school, learning has now moved online and will remain in place for the duration of lockdown. As with any initiative of this size there will be teething problems and we thank parents for their patience while we adjust in school to working 'online'.

Mr Hayles would like to thank staff for 'getting to grips' with new online systems so quickly. What we are able to provide in terms of remote learning, has been nothing short of incredible and this is down to hard work and commitment of your child's class teachers, especially as they are also having to teach the children that are still attending school.

For younger pupils (well used to Tapestry) staff are uploading videos, resources and links to complete at home.

For children in Years 1 to 6 all learning is happening via MS Teams. We are combining live and recorded lessons with assignments and posts to reflect all the learning that is happening in school. All pupils know what is expected of them and although we do not want to overload pupils with vast amounts of work, it is important that everyone engages with what is on offer as much as they can.

We know that lockdown will continue for a while yet and remote learning will almost certainly continue up to half term. We have created a dedicated webpage (**Remote Learning** linked on the homepage) which will provide parents with general documents as well as a sample of our weekly online planning.

Please remember to wear a mask before entering the school site. We are asking everyone to remain socially distant (2m or 6ft) around school, especially in the playground.



COVID update

Following the government's announcement at the beginning of term, we have had to restrict the numbers of children. Recently Mr Hayles wrote to all parents explaining that the safest place for your child right now, is at home even if both parents are key workers. This echoes the message from our Trust CEO that was also sent out recently. We have seen much greater numbers of pupils returning to school and to safeguard those pupils that have to attend, vulnerable pupils and school staff we have had to be much tougher about restricting those pupils that do not have to attend. It would be impossible to contact each family independently and we thank everyone who has taken this message seriously and chosen to keep children at home. These arrangements will remain in place until such time as we feel it safe to open up more widely (once we see a drop in transmission rates and an increase in NHS capacity).

Furthermore all additional arrangements remain in place from last term, including the one way system, compulsory mask wearing for all visitors and staggered start and end times. We ask everyone to comply with our measures.

FOWG



The Friends of Woodland Grange will be back in action this term, volunteering their time and raising money for children across the school. Events are being run in a socially distanced way, at the moment. But we hope that things will return to normal very soon and we can return to normal FOWG events.

They have recently donated funds to allow us to purchase digital devices for children who do not have access to technology. These can be for individual pupils or families with multiple siblings at school who are struggling to combine online learning from different year groups.

Don't forget to support the schools lottery. There will be draws happening across the spring term, the more tickets sold, the bigger the prizes!

Log on here:

[Woodland Grange Primary School - Support - Your School Lottery](#)



We have a **NEW** recycling bin near the office! We are collecting old pens, pencils, highlighters and correction fluid containers on behalf of COG Youth Services.

COG Youth Services is a Leicester based volunteer run social enterprise. They support young people in a range of activities. By supporting them, we are supporting local, young people.



Even if you are currently away from school, you can still save your old pens and bring them in once we return from lockdown.

Walk

Cycle

Scoot

Park with care

Parking

With the reduced numbers of children that we have seen at school this term, parking has been less of an issue and we thank parents and carers for being responsible and thoughtful at drop and pick up times outside school. The key messages around parking still stand:

- **Do not stop for any reason on the yellow zig zag lines outside school.**
- **Do not block residents driveways**
- **Do not park within 10 metres of a junction (243 in the Highway Code)**

We would urge all families to walk, ride or scoot to school. Parking near to (but not directly outside) school would also free up space and help to make Beaufort Way safer for everyone.

Snow days

As we have recently experienced our first snowfall of the new year, a reminder to parents that we will always try to keep school open even when the weather takes a turn for the worse. In the event of a school closure, we would always get a message out to parents via SMS and email, please do not phone the school. A message will also appear on the school website homepage and further messages will be sent to BBC Radio Leicester and the school Twitter feed. There is an up to date snow closure page on our website, search under 'Parents'.

Positive words

It has been lovely to receive some positive messages from families in these difficult times. The power of these kind words cannot be underestimated and staff really enjoy reading them.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all families who are 'home schooling' at the moment. We know that it is a tough situation for many. Remember: you are doing a brilliant job assisting in remote learning whilst continuing with your job at home and we appreciate the hard work and support that you are offering to your children. You are supporting us to do our job and that is something to celebrate, thank you.



Birthday books!

If you have a birthday this term, why not give your child's class the gift of a book? Even if you are currently away from school, birthdays can still be celebrated via Teams or Tapestry and everyone loves a new book! Talk to your child's class teacher and see what the class would like to read next. If you are sending in birthday treats, please remember we are a nut free school and can only accept healthy snacks.

New arrivals

We know that parents will join us in wishing HUGE congratulations to members of our school staff who have recently heard the patter of tiny feet! Well done to Mr and Mrs Smith, Mr Evans and Miss Bowe who have all had new additions to their families. Everyone is doing well.



Diary Dates:

All dates can be found on our school website calendar:

W.B. 15th February: Half term