



**Wildmoor Heath School**  
Lower Broadmoor Road  
Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7HD

Headteacher: Mrs L Semper  
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Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## **Re: Second National Lockdown from Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the new national lockdown is now in force, I am writing to reassure you that Wildmoor Heath School remains open and we are continuing to do everything to keep our staff and learners safe.

### **Safety in School**

We are keeping all our measures in place, including staggered arrival/departure times, different entrances, designated field playtime areas, regular hand cleansing, etc.

Classroom windows stay open all day, and we will continue to open external doors throughout the day to refresh the air. As the weather is now getting much colder, this means classrooms may be colder, even though our school heating is on all day. We recommend that each child should wear extra clothing, such as a thermal layer or warm socks, if they are finding it chilly. Children will be permitted to wear a scarf or coat in class if they find it necessary. We want to stay healthy and well but also children need to be comfortable to learn.

Most staff are wearing face masks/visors in the public areas and children are permitted to wear coverings in class/outside. We would strongly encourage parents and carers to wear face coverings when dropping off/collecting children and to follow school procedures, keeping a safe distance from others (at least 2 metres) and avoid groups from forming.

### **Attendance**

It is a legal requirement that all children attend school, unless they are ill or are having to self-isolate. The latest government guidance has been very clear in this respect:

*Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development. This impact can affect both current levels of education, and children's future ability to learn. The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can take action to reduce risks still further.*

The only exception to this will be children who are on the Shielded Patients List because they are classified as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' (see the hyperlink at the end of this letter). If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, you will receive written confirmation from your doctor/NHS confirming that the child should be shielding. Brothers and sisters should attend school, even if

there is a clinically vulnerable family member at home. The latest government guidance issued and dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 states this clearly:

### **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Children**

*More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.*

*Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend childcare or nursery during the period this advice is in place.*

***Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education or childcare.***

*Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice from their medical practitioner.*

I must stress that Wildmoor Heath School will always fully comply with the law and therefore we expect all children to attend school, unless a child is **clinically extremely vulnerable, and the parent can provide us with the written medical advice to confirm this.**

I would ask all parents to support your child's education, and the school, by ensuring that your child attends school every day, unless they are ill or having to self-isolate. If you have any queries about this, please call the school to discuss.

### **Remote Learning**

When a child is forced to self-isolate, the school will provide remote learning on our Edmodo learning platform. This does not apply when your child is off school because they are ill, when we would not expect them to complete schoolwork. Please refer to the our Remote Learning Policy and Remote Learning Parental Partnership Agreement - both documents can be found on the school website.

### **Breakfast and After-School Clubs and School Lunches**

The Energy Kids clubs will continue running daily, with the exception of the Friday after-school club. Unfortunately, due to very low numbers, Energy Kids have closed the after-school Friday session.

Energy Kids is an independent company, which has run our Breakfast and After-School clubs for several years. The clubs are a very important part of our provision, helping to give wraparound care to those families with working parents. All families who use the club provision are very happy with the level of care, nutrition and the activities provided. Indeed the children spend a good proportion of their time outside playing sports and games. We are therefore very keen for the clubs to remain open. However, for them to continue, the pupil numbers need to be viable. Please support the clubs in every way by sending your child to the club and helping us to keep healthy numbers. The school and the Energy Kids clubs run consistently stringent health and safety procedures for all our learners, and I would reiterate that we have had no positive cases of CV-19 at Wildmoor Heath.



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The same applies to school lunches - we are proud of our delicious meals, and the vast selection offered every day. Our team of two cooks do a sterling job of ensuring children are fed nutritious meals which they enjoy. The cooks often run special themed days that are exciting for the children, e.g. Bonfire Day Meal. We encourage families to make use of this important provision – again we are most keen to continue offering school meals, which are freshly cooked on site every day.

During difficult and uncertain times, I would like to wish all our families good health and our very best wishes from the whole Wildmoor team. We are all enjoying our learning with our amazing learners, who are just so resilient and enthusiastic. By keeping staff safe in a healthy environment, and by working together, we will all maintain a healthy and active school environment for our children.

Best regards

Leslie Semper  
Headteacher

### Definition of 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable'



[Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)

Who this guidance is for. This guidance is for everyone who has been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable. If you are in this group, you will previously have received a letter from the NHS ...

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

The definition of clinically extremely vulnerable can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>