

# Wildmoor Heath School Newsletter



Issue Number 3

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our latest newsletter covering recent events in school, an update of health and safety measures at Wildmoor and some reminders.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As of today, I am pleased to report that our rigorous health and safety measures are continuing to be effective and we are remaining vigilant to ensure that, wherever possible, this continues to be the case. To date, we have no positive cases of CV-19 amongst our pupils or staff. The recent national lockdown has not affected school life. However, we appreciate that a second national lockdown will affect the mental well-being of our families and we are here to support your children.

Staff are now wearing face coverings in the playground at the beginning and end of the school day in the outdoor areas. We would ask that all parents make every effort to wear face coverings when dropping your child off or picking them up. We have noticed that several children are wearing facemasks in class because this makes them feel safer. We are maintaining a flow of fresh air in all classes, with windows and external doors opened frequently throughout the school day. Although our school heating is on, this will inevitably mean that classrooms are colder than would be the norm. Please remember that your child can wear extra clothing, for example, an extra jumper, a coat, hat and/or scarf in class to stay warm. Wherever possible, our teachers are ensuring that children spend extra time outside and therefore it is important that your child has a warm coat, outdoor shoes/wellies and gloves, etc. to stay warm.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

I would like to ask you to support families within our school community who are suffering hardship at this time, in part due to CV-19. We are all aware that some families will be struggling to feed their families, let alone purchase gifts for their children. We are planning to make up some parcels to distribute within our community leading up to the seasonal break. At this stage, the holiday is scheduled to be for the usual two-week period; however, we are aware that the government may extend this.



We would invite support in two key areas:

1. Foodstuffs – please send in long life, packaged and canned foodstuffs that we will use to make up food parcels to help families over the festive period. Please send in a range of items, which might include festive foods, pasta, rice, tinned fruits/vegetables, biscuits, chocolates, coffee, tea, sugar, even crackers, etc.
2. Seasonal gifts – we are hoping to collect a range of children's gifts to distribute. It would be most helpful if parents could kindly wrap each gift, marking if it is for a girl or a boy, and indicating an age range for the gift.

We would also welcome some offers of help to make up the parcels for our community. Please call the school office on 01344 772034 if you feel that you could help.

## WILDMOOR STAFF NEWS

I am pleased to let you know that we have two announcements concerning learning support staff who will be extending their roles at Wildmoor Heath. Mr Jackson, who is currently working at Wildmoor Heath as a lunchtime supervisor, and as the after-school team leader for Energy Kids, will join us from Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 as a Learning Support Assistant in Year 2. Mr Jackson will be working with Miss Grove, and the class teacher Miss Smith, to support the learning progress of all the children in Year 2. Over the next few weeks, Mrs Owens, who is currently a lunchtime supervisor plus a learning support in Reception/Year 1, will be joining the Year 3 team to support teaching and learning progress.

We have two vacancies at Wildmoor Heath:

1. Two Learning Support Assistant roles,
2. A lunchtime supervisor role, three days a week.

The advertisements will be displayed on our website in the coming days and/or contact the school office: [secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk).

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL: COMPLETE THE PARENTVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE 2020/2021

The time has come round again for our annual questionnaire whereby we invite all our parents and carers to log onto the Ofsted ParentView website and to complete the simple school questionnaire. This questionnaire allows prospective parents to view your opinions about our school, and will be used by Ofsted when they inspect the school.

I know that many of you have completed this for the school last autumn in the 2019/2020 academic year but this is an annual questionnaire, which is 'wiped clean' every year. Last year we were pleased to receive 36 responses and this year we would like to aim even higher – our aim is to reach 50 responses this year, but we are sitting on zero!

When logging on, both parents can register, under separate e-mail addresses, and answer the questions, so potentially two responses per family. You will also be able to look at last year's responses, which were very positive indeed. Therefore, could I ask you all to log onto ParentView again, **even if you completed it last year, in order that we can obtain a healthy number of responses again this year.**

The instructions for registering on Parent View are shown below:

1. Type ParentView.ofsted.gov.uk into your browser.
2. Scroll down and press 'Give Your View Now'.
3. Click on 'Register Now' or 'Log-In' at the bottom of the page.
4. Enter your e-mail address and confirm that you are a parent or carer.
5. Follow simple on-screen instructions before completing registration.
6. An email is sent to your email address with a link to validate and activate the login.
7. Select a secure password for their account with a minimum of 8 characters; there is also a password strength indicator to help users create more secure passwords.
8. Once you have logged in with your details, you will be able to give your views by entering 'Wildmoor Heath' as the chosen school.
9. The questionnaire is then very quick to complete.
10. You can also view the responses for 2019/2020 (first responses recorded in previous years).

Thank you very much for your support with this questionnaire – the more responses we collate, the more reliable our analysis will be.

## PUPIL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT

The CV-19 restrictions have prevented us from being able to take the children out on their school trips and, sadly at this time of year, from inviting our theatre company into school for our annual pantomime. The teaching staff have been working hard to ensure that we can continue to provide a wide range of enrichment activities for all our learners, operating strictly within the CV-19 rules and regulations. We have detailed below some of the fun activities we have lined up for the children at Wildmoor.

### The Full Wildmoor Curriculum

The Wildmoor team know how important it is for all our learners to have wide access to the full curriculum plus our enrichment activities. Since the return to school in September 2020, we have provided the full range of subjects to all our learners, including all the Foundation subjects such as Music, Art, Design and Technology, Geography, History and French (Years 3 to 6). All teachers ensure that their classes spend a good proportion of the week outdoors, participating in outdoors Physical Education or outdoor learning across the curriculum. The Haven Outdoor Garden, with its own indoor classroom, provide a valuable resource and we are proud to have this available for all classes to enjoy. In addition, Year 4 have now completed their Forest Schools learning sessions with Mrs Holt and Miss Winks, and Year 3 commence their sessions today.

### Masterclass With Author Luke Temple

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have not been able to invite visiting authors into school this term. As an alternative, the author Luke Temple has offered Wildmoor Heath a virtual author masterclass via videos and excerpts of one of his novels. In class this week, children have been listening to one of Luke's stories and later will have an opportunity to ask Luke questions, which he will reply to via a further video. As part of this virtual visit, Luke will be selling signed copies of his book for any children who would like to read more. Please see the attached letter from Luke and if you would like to purchase one or more books, please follow the instructions on the letter. Orders need to be received before Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

### Drama In School With 'Perform'

This week our learners in Reception, plus Years 1 and 2, have enjoyed class drama workshops with visiting company 'Perform'. The children were entertained with excerpts from famous fairy tales and enjoyed taking part, sometimes even 'correcting' the visiting actor on her knowledge of the characters in each story! All three classes enjoyed a thoroughly fun morning and we look forward to welcoming Perform back to Wildmoor Heath in the future.





### **National Theatre Performance of 'Peter Pan' in Classes**

To replace our annual pantomime, this year class teachers will be airing a National Theatre recording of the stage play 'Peter Pan'. This will give the children an opportunity to watch a familiar story, acted by professional crew at the National Theatre in London. This is a real treat, which I am sure the children will really enjoy!

### **Festive Arrangements**

All classes will be recording some festive songs, carols, poems and stories and these will be uploaded to our school website. Links will also be sent home to families so that you can watch the children's performances. In this way, we hope that all our learners can participate in the festive spirit and develop their performance skills. Please wait for further news on the recordings.

Our festive lunches will be held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for Key Stage 1 and Reception classes and on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for Key Stage 2 classes. I would like to thank our wonderful Parent Teacher Association for donating decorations, crackers and balloons for our lunches. Please ensure that you have returned your lunch request form asap, attached again with this newsletter.

### **REMINDER ON WARM CLOTHING AND PE KIT FOR THE COLDER DAYS**

Pupils are now spending increased lesson time outside. With the arrival of colder weather, please ensure your child is always well equipped with a warm coat, outdoor shoes, hat and gloves. For PE lessons, we recommend long tracksuit bottoms and a warm sweatshirt (either navy or grey please), suitable PE shoes, and most importantly, spare, warm socks.

## EDMODO REMOTE LEARNING PLATFORM

A reminder that teachers will use Wildmoor's Edmodo platform to provide remote learning work should your child need to remain at home (e.g. if your child or the class has to self-isolate). Providing your child is not ill, it is important that he/she can access their learning at home to ensure continued academic progress throughout the year. We have published a Remote Learning Policy and a Remote Learning Parental Partnership Strategy, both of which are located on the new school website under Information/School Policies.

**If your child is off school because of an illness, he or she is not expected to access schoolwork and the teacher would not be expected to upload work.**

## MAKING CONTACT WITH THE CLASS TEACHER

We hope that parents and carers found the Pupil Summary sheets, issued on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020, informative and helpful. We encourage you to make contact with your child's class teacher if you have any queries at any time. The class teacher can be contacted by inserting the relevant year group before the usual web address, for example: [reception@wildmoorheath.org.uk](mailto:reception@wildmoorheath.org.uk) or [Year3@wildmoorheath.org.uk](mailto:Year3@wildmoorheath.org.uk).

## PARENT APP LITE

As you know, we have recently introduced a new system called Parent App Lite, which we will be using to collect contact information, medical details and dietary requirements for your child. This new electronic system replaces the paper collection sheet; this will enable parents to check the information we hold on your child and make any changes via smartphone, tablet, or PC anytime, anywhere.

**It is a legal requirement that all parents and carers register and complete the details.**

**All parents have received an e-mail with an activation code. The attached leaflet clearly explains the full process.**

**It is a three-step process and it is important to complete all three steps:**

1. Log on to [www.sims-parent.co.uk](http://www.sims-parent.co.uk)
3. Input the activation code,
4. Complete your details,
5. Click save and click Finish Changes,

Thank you to those parents who have already used this app and we would encourage anyone who has not yet registered to do so as soon as possible. It is important that we hold up to date information on your child should we need to contact you.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or e-mail [reception@wildmoorheath.org.uk](mailto:reception@wildmoorheath.org.uk)

## **ATTENTION: PLEASE EXERCISE CAUTION WITH THE 'AMONG US' APP GAME**

We are all keen to protect our children from any on-line material, which might put them at risk in any way or distress them. Hence, we remain vigilant to recent releases and crazes. The latest craze is for the on-line game App 'Among Us' which is proving to be very popular amongst our pupils. Our experience shows that 'Among Us' involves children potentially playing with strangers, which is clearly not advisable for primary children. To avoid this, parents are advised to ensure that their children choose to play within the 'PRIVATE' session and not within a 'PUBLIC' session. In the PUBLIC sessions, we have noticed that stranger exchanges can become quite abusive. I attach a parental leaflet, concerning this game and would appreciate your support/ intervention with your child to ensure their safety on-line.

### **STAYING SAFE**

**In line with the government guidance and as part of our Covid-19 Risk Assessment measures, we are leaving classroom windows open to create a good flow of air throughout the day. This was working well until the cold weather arrived – and now the staff are wearing their coats and thermals! Please ensure that your child is warmly dressed with layers underneath their uniform. Please also send in a waterproof coat and outdoor shoes to school every day. In line with the guidance, we will continue to keep classroom windows open as long as possible.**

**Finally, it is very important that if anybody in your family develop any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, you must keep your child/children at home until a negative test result is received. If the result is negative, and your child does not have symptoms, they can return to school. If the test is positive, please contact school for further advice. I attach again the Covid-19 Flowchart, which helps families to best assess their child's health.**

**If your child is advised to self-isolate (e.g. via the NHS App, by Pupil Health England, or through another messaging service), he/she must do so for a total of 14 days, before returning to school. During this time, work will be set on Edmodo as part of Wildmoor Heath's Remote Learning Partnership.**

## **SPECIAL THANKS FROM US ALL**

Once again, I would like to extend special thanks to members of our school community who have supported the school in the past few weeks.

Our new library, themed around the ocean, is developing well and is looking very nautical indeed. Several parents have supported us with the development of our library:

- Mr and Mrs Riley donated a super table for our infants,
- Mr and Mrs Fletcher donated some beautiful Australian ocean pictures and tiles,
- Mr and Mrs Woodhouse donated a colourful pirate –themed backdrop,
- Mr and Mrs Vaughan have donated a ship's wheel, and
- Mrs Twelvetrees donated a large bag of science books!

Moving outdoors, in addition, Mrs Williams has donated rubber chippings and art and craft supplies. The children and staff are very grateful to you all!

Thanks always to our volunteers who make such a difference - Miss Winks is continuing to volunteer in school every Friday, Mr Jackson has been working as a volunteer in Year 3, three mornings a week, and Mrs Malcolm has been reading with Year 4 children.

Once again, during these unprecedented times when our staff are stretched in so many ways, I would like to thank our amazing Wildmoor team who are all continuing to work with great determination and resilience. Their dedication to our learners is unrivalled and makes our school so unique. I would like to thank all of you, as our parental community, for your continued support of the school, our staff and our learners. We have seen excellent progress on catch-up learning and reading this term; this reflects your support from home – thank you!

Should you have questions, at any time, concerning your child's education or welfare, please contact the class teacher or the school office. By continuing to work together well, we will ensure that your children receive the best support, education and pastoral care possible.

Kind regards,

**Leslie Semper**  
**Headteacher**