



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

Headteacher: Mrs L Semper
Deputy Headteacher: Mr R Thomas

t: 01344 772034
e: secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk
w: <http://www.wildmoorheath.org.uk>

Monday, 4th January 2021

WILDMOOR HEATH SCHOOL – MOVE TO REMOTE HOME LEARNING FROM TUESDAY, 5TH JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I wish you all a Happy New Year; I hope that you and your families are well and staying safe. We are all going through a period of unbelievable turmoil and I appreciate the significant impact this is having on families in so very many ways.

I am writing to advise you that it will be necessary for Wildmoor Heath School to move to remote home learning **for all classes from Tuesday, 5 January 2021**. Senior leaders have today reviewed carefully our Risk Assessment, in light of a high level of staffing absence. We have reluctantly come to the decision that the safest and only viable option is that we move to remote learning from tomorrow. This will be for a minimum of one week, to be reviewed at the end of the week; however, this could potentially be longer. We will review national statistics, directives and our own Risk Assessment and advise you promptly.

The reason for the move to remote learning is a lack of staffing and the risk this poses to the safety of our pupils and staff. At this point, Wildmoor Heath has several staff who are ill/ self-isolating and many others who are following national union advice to work from home. Given our reduced staffing numbers, I do not believe that we can operate our school in a way that fully protects the health, safety and well-being of our pupils and staff. Infection rates are very high and rising rapidly in this Tier 4 zone, matching those of many London borough areas.

Wildmoor Heath School will not be 'closed' as the learning will continue from home. **For children of critical workers/vulnerable children, the school will operate as normal with daily in-class learning provision. This includes the children of any school staff.** We will contact these families separately today to confirm your child's attendance from tomorrow. As during spring/summer, those children attending school will be grouped in small 'bubbles' covered by a lead teacher plus at least one other adult. We will continue to protect all our children and staff by implementing high level Health and Safety measures, which we have reviewed as part of our latest Risk Assessment. Children will be socially distanced and may wear masks if parents prefer. Staff will ensure children respect our rules and cleanse their hands frequently.

I appreciate that many parents and carers are very worried at this time and will be concerned over your children's educational progress, as we move to remote learning once again. Clearly, children learn best when they are in school and gain enormous social, emotional and academic benefits. I want to reassure you that our Edmodo home learning

platform is well established in the school and children are highly familiar with using it to access their learning. Over the spring/summer months, our teaching team proved that we provide high quality, daily learning activities across the curriculum. Edmodo also gives our children the opportunity to chat with their teachers/learning support assistants and with each other. Teachers are already hard at work uploading this week's learning, providing structured progression. We are also keen to protect our children's social and emotional well-being; hence, we will continue to provide assemblies, well-being activities and challenges. This holistic approach is vital at this stage and I would you to help your child to engage fully.

If parents have any queries about Edmodo, or how to access it, please contact your class teacher using the class e-mail e.g. Year5@wildmoorheath.org.uk. We can assist with your child's login details, explanations, etc. The sooner you ensure that your child has Edmodo access, the better. If any parent would prefer hard copies of the learning tasks, please ask your teacher as soon as possible and we will provide packs.

Finally, I would stress that this decision has been a very difficult one for us to make, mainly because we know children thrive when in school. The decision will be reviewed later this week, in light of any new government decisions and staffing considerations.

I hope this provides clarity and thank you for your continued support of our staff.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Semper', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mrs Semper
Headteacher