



**Wildmoor Heath School**  
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## **UPDATE ON LEARNING AT WILDMOOR HEATH SCHOOL**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you and your family well, and coping with the national lockdown restrictions at this critical time. I understand that this is a very difficult and challenging time for us all and fully appreciate that families are under extra pressure in many ways.

### **School Open for Children of Critical Workers**

In line with the governmental guidelines, Wildmoor Heath School remains operational for the children of critical workers or vulnerable children. We are running four mixed year classes, fully led by a teacher and an LSA throughout the day, in line with our Risk Assessment (see our website). Children follow the learning set by their usual class teacher, accessing it through Edmodo.

### **Staffing**

As a single form primary school, Wildmoor employs the equivalent of seven full-time teachers. In order to staff the four mixed classes at this time, our teachers are leading the four class bubbles on a rota system, usually covering a mixed class for three days a week. Of necessity, teachers are not always placed with their usual teaching group, so for example Mr Phelps, our Year 4 teacher, is working in Year 6 to support Mr Thomas and the Year 6 bubble, whilst also planning and setting work for Year 4 children and responding to children's/parents' queries. In line with our Risk Assessment, we have advised all staff to work from home when not supervising a class. During this time, teachers will be planning, preparing, setting and uploading the daily lessons to Edmodo, ready for the following week.

### **Remote Learning**

Thank you to you all for your support with your child's remote learning whilst they are not attending school. As a team, we appreciate that it is very difficult for families with one or more parents trying to work from home, whilst also dedicating time to support your child's learning. We are delighted that 95% of our learners have engaged regularly with Edmodo over the past three weeks.

Many of you have contacted us to comment on the high quality of the teaching and learning, our assemblies, plus our emotional/social activities to support our learners. Teachers are preparing and uploading five full days of learning every week, with a high quality of lesson content and delivery. Lessons are usually videos or PowerPoints with the teacher's voiceover/instructions to help the child follow the lesson. Since the beginning of the March 2020 lockdown, we have ensured that children have access on Edmodo to regular assemblies on school/British values, celebration of festivals, international days (e.g. Martin Luther King Day) plus our weekly Celebration Assembly. Mrs Thurgood has also prepared and uploaded many well-being assemblies and resources. You will also find whole school PE lesson filmed by Mr Thomas and story reading from Mrs MacManus.

We have received some queries concerning live lessons (e.g. on Zoom) which some larger/secondary schools are running at this time. We are not in a position to offer live lessons at Wildmoor essentially due to our limited staffing. With only seven full-time teachers, it is difficult to balance the need to cover four mixed classes every day with the need to set a high quality and quantity of work for the seven year groups. Teachers are often in school for three days, not always covering their own year group, and then have two days at home to complete their class work and communications. Staff absence due to illness/self-isolation, is an ongoing issue; over the last three weeks, we have had an average three to four members of staff absent on any day. Hence, it remains very difficult for school leaders to balance the government's stipulation to teach children in school whilst also ensuring every class has a high quality and quantity of learning each week.

Across the school, we are trialling different ways to help parents with engagement and to keep the children motivated. Mrs Dalton is trialling Zoom registration with her Year 1 class; this took some time to set up and was quite difficult to manage when children kept wandering off! A once weekly catch-up with the class is perhaps a good idea to allow children to see their teacher; this is something we are considering.

In the meantime, I would ask parents to continue with your great work supporting your child's teaching and learning. Remember that, if you prefer to have printed copies for your child, we can produce these for you or indeed, local estate agents are willing to print work for parents. Additional, government-endorsed, learning resources for schools and parents may be found using the following links:

Oak National Academy: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/>  
BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Should you or your child need any support, please contact your child's teacher, via the class e-mail, to arrange a phone call or indeed a Zoom call. Moving forward, if the current remote learning continues into March 2021, it is likely that we will conduct our Parent-teacher meetings on-line as Zoom/equivalent calls.

### **LFD (Lateral Flow Device) Testing for Staff**

The government and Public Health England have asked all primary schools to introduce bi-weekly self-testing to identify those who may be asymptomatic, and actually test positive. This will be introduced from w/c 25 January 2021. This increases the likelihood of discovering that a member of staff may have CV-19; in this case we would inform parents immediately of the need to close a class bubble for all children/staff for 10 days.

### **We are here to help you!**

Please contact us if you need support in any way – our staff will do everything we can to support you. We have access to FoodBank vouchers which we will distribute to those who need it. We will continue to accept donations of dried/tinned foodstuffs to the school for distribution to our community.

I hope this provides clarity; in an ever-changing environment, operating under stringent government criteria, we are all working to do the very best we can to support your children's education, well-being and progress. I would like to thank you for your continued support of our staff and your children's learning.

Best regards,



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Mrs Semper  
HeadTeacher