

Wildmoor Heath School Newsletter



Issue Number 5

Wednesday, 27th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well, staying safe and coping with the national lockdown restrictions at this critical time. Following on from my letter to you last week dated 22 January 2021, I would like to update you on some of our initiatives in school and beyond.

SCHOOL OPEN FOR CRITICAL WORKERS' AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

The school remains open every day for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children, split across four mixed year classes, fully led by a teacher and an LSA throughout the day. In line with our Risk Assessment, we have advised all staff to work from home when not supervising a class. When not in school, teachers plan, prepare, set and upload the daily lessons to Edmodo.

REMOTE LEARNING – ENGAGEMENT

I am delighted to report that, over the past three weeks, we have maintained strong pupil engagement with our learning platform Edmodo, reaching 97% last week. This is very positive indeed; we are grateful for your continued support with your children's learning at home.

The teachers are working especially hard to provide a strong quality and quantity of home learning, using creative ideas, voiceovers and even dressing up! I know you will agree that we have developed our remote learning provision significantly since March 2020 and that our content is very strong indeed. Thank you for all the positive comments teachers are receiving about our remote learning. Some of the comments we have received recently include the following from two families:

"I just want to extend my thanks to all the staff at WMH for all the hard work they have done and will continue to do! I fully support the closure of the school for the safety of all. I am more than happy with the remote learning provision. Keep safe everyone ...this will pass and we will all come out the other end fit and well!"

"I wanted to say that I appreciate all the work you teachers are doing and I am grateful., It's hard for all of you and you are doing an amazing job, thank you."

We have a large supply of workbooks and pencils if any more parents wish to collect supplies to use at home. Where families need printed copies, we can produce these for you or indeed, local estate agents are willing to print work for parents. Should you or your child need any support, please contact your child's teacher, via the class e-mail. A reminder that the government has endorsed two quality learning resources for schools and parents which may be found using the following links:

Oak National Academy: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/>

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR PARENTAL COMMUNITY

I find myself in the very uncomfortable position of describing our school finances as “desperate” at this point. Hence, I am reaching out to any families who feel they could support the school in any way. This is a request made in good faith, and in no way intended to put any pressure on families, many of whom we know are struggling at this time, However, if you feel able to support us with a contribution, please read on to understand the background to our case.

During the past year, the school has suffered a severe loss of income due to reduced lettings and catering incomes. We have been unable to let out our premises/school grounds, which provides us with extra funds as well as supporting wider community partnerships. The reduction in school meals during school closures has also affected the school badly. We have fixed costs for catering, administrative and teaching staff, which continue regardless of the income received from lettings or school meals. This has a knock-on effect on school finances.

In the recent weeks, some parents have donated funds to the school. Mr and Mrs Gandhi, who run the Handy DIY Store in Crowthorne, donated £100, and Mr Adamson donated £750. On behalf of our school community, I would like to thank these families for their generous donations. In spite of our financial setbacks, this funding will help us to maintain our drive to provide Wildmoor learners with new, exciting books, learning resources and outdoor equipment of which they all are worthy.

If you feel you are able to donate any money to our school, please come forward. Any donation, however small, will be most gratefully received. Rest assured that, if you prefer, this could be an anonymous donation.

Once again, I appreciate that this is an unprecedented request during a critical time for all. I would emphasise again that I am making this request only to help our school to continue its work. This is not intended to place any burden on families. Your understanding is appreciated.

OFSTED'S PARENTVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

The ParentView website, provided by Ofsted, provides a consistent questionnaire across all schools that records responses within any academic year. The purpose of this questionnaire is purely external – it allows prospective parents to view your opinions about our school, and Ofsted will consult it when they inspect the school.

The questionnaire resets to zero every September at the beginning of the academic year, hence we ask parents to complete it each year. This year we are aiming to gather as many parents' views as we can on Wildmoor Heath's ParentView questionnaire. As we stand, there are only 9 respondents versus 36 last year. It would be terrific to be able to reflect the quantity of supportive views we have received through your many letters of thanks and appreciation for the school, leaders and staff. Please take the time to log on and complete the Wildmoor Parental Questionnaire on the Ofsted ParentView website.

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.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INCLUSION TEAM

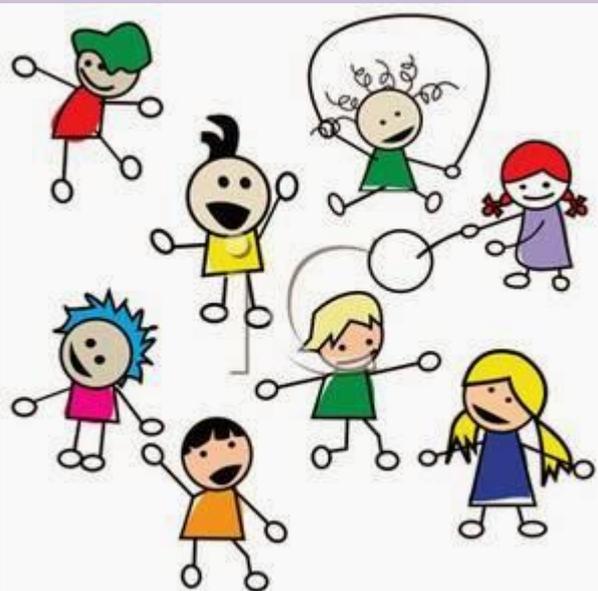
Thank you to every parent/carer who has taken the time to show their appreciation for the dedication and efforts of our teaching staff to support their children during this remote learning phase. We have welcomed your input and suggestions to ensure that work is accessible and appropriate. It is clear that our learners are engaging well with EDMODO and working incredibly hard – well done and keep it up!

Next week we begin our remote IEP meetings via Zoom with parents and teachers. We have sent a Zoom invitation to all those parents who requested a meeting and we look forward to discussing your child's progress in these sessions.

Please remember to check the Inclusion page on our website for [useful support contacts](#), to access resources via the Inclusion folder on EDMODO and [Oak Academy](#) who have a range of recorded interventions available to support children with needs.

We have been delighted with the response to the daily wellbeing activities and assemblies, shared by Mrs Thurgood, our school ELSA, and hope these continue to inspire the children. Mrs Thurgood has uploaded these resources onto our school website. To help you with website navigation, search under Pastoral/ Mindfulness and Well-Being or under Information/Covid-19/Family Well-Being.

Mrs MacManus (SENDCo) and Mrs Thurgood (ELSA/Well-Being Leader)



WILDMOOR HEATH SCHOOL WELL-BEING IN ACTION FOR THOSE IN SCHOOL



Mrs Thurgood, our school ELSA and Well-Being Leader, has introduced a Daily Wellbeing session over the past three weeks. We run the sessions in class for those children attending school and load them onto Edmodo for children at home to access and enjoy. In the photograph above, you can see some of those children who are attending school completing some fitness on Mighty Monday. To the right, Henry is showing us his Poster for Thankful Tuesday.

We have also created Well-Being sections on our website, under Pastoral and Covid-19. Our focus is on boosting children's well-being, both social and emotional, through a friendly character 'dot dude'. Each session enhances children's emotional vocabulary, includes self-affirmations and an activity to boost self-esteem.

Wildmoor Heath's school motto is 'Reach for the Stars' and our five values are Respect, Empathy, Aspirations, Courage and Honesty. The children love the themed day names, which they now know off by heart:

Mighty Mondays - the focus is on bravery and confidence. Pupils focus on strength of character and find ways to increase their courage and social skills. This ties up with our Courage value.

Thoughtful Tuesdays - the focus is on being thoughtful and kind. How they can help others and think about other people's feelings. This ties up with our school value of Empathy.

Wishes Wednesdays - the focus is on goals and wishes. How they can set a goal and reach that goal. How that will make them feel. This ties up with our Aspirations value.

Thankful Thursdays - the focus is on gratitude and looking for those little things we appreciate. This will help their positive outlook on life. This ties up with our values of Honesty and Respect.

Friendly Fridays - the focus is on friendship and how connecting with friends is important for their wellbeing. It will also look at qualities of friendship. The ties up with our values of respect, Honesty and Empathy.



Finally, please remember that the Wildmoor Heath team is here to support you and your family in any way with your child's education, social, emotional well-being. Contact the teacher via the year group E-mail and remember that we are happy to arrange a telephone conversation or Zoom meeting with parents or with your child, under your supervision. I wish you all the very best as we proceed through these difficult weeks and look forward to seeing everyone back together soon.

Kind regards,

Leslie Semper
Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

**MRS SEMPER, MR THOMAS, MRS JOHNSON,
MR PHELPS AND MRS THURGOOD**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as

1. Protecting children from maltreatment;
2. Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
3. Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
4. Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

At Wildmoor Heath School, all staff maintain a culture of vigilance and put the health and safety, learning progress and pastoral needs of our learners first. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place, including annual formal training for all plus ongoing informal updates.

Wildmoor Heath has five trained DSLs who receive multi-agency training, attend ongoing formative sessions and represent the school at Child Protection meetings.

Mrs Semper is the Designated Safety Leader (DSL), supported by Mr Thomas, Mrs Johnson, Mr Phelps and Mrs Thurgood as the Deputy Designated Safety Leaders (DDSLs).

Our Safeguarding Policy (date September 2020), together with a Covid-19 Addendum Policy, can be found on the school website and/or a copy can be requested from the school office.

If you have any concerns whatsoever about a child, or something that you have witnessed inside or outside of school, please ask to speak to Mrs Semper, Mr. Thomas, Mrs Johnson, Mr Phelps or Mrs Johnson.

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REACH FOR THE STARS ★★
Respect - Empathy - Aspirations - Courage - Honesty

