



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

Headteacher: Mrs L. Semper  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr R. Thomas

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Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy start to the new autumn term; and I am writing to update you on how the school is operating. I will also provide advice on the medical issues surrounding Covid-19.

## **RETURN TO SCHOOL UPDATE**

Inevitably, September is proving to be a very busy month for us all and looks 'different' from the norm. The staff and children have had to cope with many new changes to their routines. We have put in place extensive protective measures in relation to Covid-19, including the three entrance/exits gates, limited parents on site, year group zones on the field, cleansing stations in all classes, regular whole class hand washing, etc. We have also adjusted our teaching learning and assessment curriculum, with measures such as baseline assessments to assess pupils' learning and catch-up learning sessions. In addition, we have implemented well-being measures for our learners to help them feel safe, secure and settled again.

I am pleased to say that everyone has responded well to all these changes, taking them in their stride, meaning that we have had a truly positive start back to school. It is clear that the children are settling back into school well, happy to be with their friends and teachers. Our new joiners have also settled well, making new friendships and enjoying life at Wildmoor Heath. I have particularly noted the ease with which children, even the youngest, enter the school site independently and walk to their classes – this has been wonderful to see. I would like to thank our whole school community - our learners, parents and of course our staff - for all your support, care and resilience which has helped to make the return such a positive one.

## **SCHOOL GATES AND CARS ON LOWER BROADMOOR ROAD**

A safety warning for us all. We have three adults on the gates morning and evening, plus many local residents, and several safety points have come to my attention. Please could all our families and carers drop off / collect promptly and avoid congregating at the school gates. We have found that the Driveway Gate (Years 4/5) can become very congested, making it difficult for others to pass on the pavement. Please wait **close to the school fence**, allowing pushchairs and bicycles to pass safely. If your child is arriving on a scooter or bicycle (I encourage both!), remind them **to travel slowly** on the pavements as they arrive at school, and to be mindful of delivery vehicles arriving at the school carpark entrance, etc.

When using cars, please pay great heed to children's safety, **driving very slowly, parking legally and considerately, and watching all around for children** who may be crossing the road. The roundabout outside the school can be dangerous with cars manoeuvring and it is essential that cars move at a snail's pace. Many Year 6 walk home alone and will not, therefore, be accompanied by an adult.

## **COVID – 19 ADVICE**

It is clear that Covid -19 is going to be with us for a long time and I know that many of you are anxious and have questions, which I will try to answer in this letter. **Firstly at this time, we have no cases of positive tests for Covid-19 in Wildmoor Heath School.**

Whilst we want to ensure children are in school whenever possible, there is a clear procedure to follow if your child, or any member of your family, exhibits a CV-19 symptom. Please be really clear on the CV-19 symptoms which are: **a new and continuous cough, a high temperature when measured with a thermometer and/or a loss of sense of smell or taste.** If your child has one or more of these specific

symptoms, they may have CV-19, so you should keep your child off school and apply for a drive-in or walk-in test on-line at <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

Test slots can be difficult to book, however new test slots are released daily from 9:00am in many local locations and can be usually booked for that day. Later in the day, it may be difficult to book tests, and you will need to be patient, as each time you try, you will need to enter the details again. When you book a test, you can also book to take along several members of the family in the same car for testing that day. Drive or walk in testing is proving to be the fastest method; results are usually returned within 24-48 hours, meaning a child need only miss two days of school if tested negative. You can also order a postal test on line but will take longer to be processed, meaning a child would need to stay off school until tested negative – in some cases this has been a whole week. Please aim for walk in or drive in tests wherever possible. Several families have contacted us to advise that they have taken CV-19 tests, which have proven negative over a two-day period and their child is back at school promptly.

If your child has other symptoms, not the specific CV-19 ones listed above, then you do not need to get a test and must decide if they are too ill to come to school. If your child has only a sore throat or runny nose (i.e. NOT Covid-19 symptoms), and otherwise feels fine, this may be a seasonal cold or hay fever. If you feel comfortable for your child to come to school, we will accept them. If a child is ill in school, or displays a CV-19 symptom, we will contact parents immediately to ask them to collect their child and book a test.

The new 'Rule of 6' came into effect this morning and applies to us all, including children when they are out of school. Please take care to ensure that your child/family complies fully with these new safety rules and therefore is not gathering in groups of more than six.

At the end of this letter, I list a number of frequently asked questions that will help you to understand the procedures to follow.

## **ROOFING BUILDING WORKS**

Our extensive roofing works and scaffolding have provided quite a distraction over the past two weeks! The roofing crew have worked closely with us on site-specific risk assessment to protect the safety of our children, staff and any parents who are on site. You will notice that no work takes place during drop-offs and collections. The builders have moved on swiftly, aided by the dry weather, and the roof is on track for completion within the next ten days. Thereafter, they will remove the scaffolding over several weekends, again to protect the health and safety of all. The result will be that Wildmoor Heath will have a brand new, super smart slate roof. Thank you to all our community for your patience during this period of construction – once again our learners have just taken it in their stride, moving safely around the scaffolding.

## **HOT SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Just a reminder to you all that, unlike many other schools who are offering limited cold lunches only, the Wildmoor Cooks are providing a full menu selection every day, including a hot meat/vegetarian dish, salad, a range of paninis/rolls, plus fresh fruits, yoghurts and one other pudding. We do not wish to limit our menu, as we believe that school lunches provide children with a healthy, balanced meal, a chance to sample new foods and an opportunity to socialise over lunch.

Please encourage your child to have school lunches. Meals are free to those children who are in Reception, Years 1 and 2. I understand that for other families, payments may be an issue at this time. If any family wishes to apply for free school meals, please speak to the school office for guidance on how to do this. It is a swift and easy process.

Please contact Mrs Attfield on 01344 [772034](tel:01344772034) [secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk).

I would like to welcome a new member of staff, Mr Jackson, who is joining us from today as a Lunchtime Supervisor. Mr Jackson is father to two boys in school and is the EnergyKids After School Manager.



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## TEACHER WELCOME BRIEFINGS

Teachers have all now issued a Parent Welcome Presentation, which has been sent to you all. These presentations replace our usual Welcome Meetings and are also available on the class pages on our school website. Please watch the presentation with your child so that we can work together to ensure the best possible liaison between home and school during the academic term.

## CONTACTING TEACHERS

Please continue to use the class e-mail addresses to contact your child's teacher with any queries or suggestions. For all other queries, please contact the school office on [secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wildmoorheath.org.uk). We will inform parents at a later stage concerning the autumn Parent-Teacher meeting schedule; I am hoping to hold carefully scheduled 1:1 meetings between parents and teachers.

## BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE: EnergyKidz

EnergyKids are operating as normal each day from 7:30am.

**Parents can secure bookings via their online accounts at:**  
<https://bookings.energy-kidz.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>.

**To view the latest update concerning your clubs operations please visit:**  
<https://www.energy-kidz.co.uk/breakfast-and-after-school-clubs/>



Thank you for your continued patience and support of the school, our awesome staff and your children's education.

Best regards,

Mrs L. Semper  
Headteacher

## **COVID 19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### ***When should we be tested for Covid-19?***

*As soon as you have any one of the 3 main symptoms; a new and continuous cough; a high temperature or loss of or change in your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).*

### ***I have tested positive, when can I return to school?***

*You must isolate for at least 10 days from when the test was taken, and other members of your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days.*

### ***I have been in close contact with a positive case, what happens?***

*All those in the same household or those in close contact with a positive case must isolate for 14 days. If they develop symptoms they should be tested and isolate for 10 days from the test result if positive.*

### ***My child has been sent home unwell, what should I do?***

*When sending children home, we will either tell you they are unwell or that we believe they have Covid-19 symptoms. It is most likely we will tell you they are unwell as Covid-19 symptoms will need to be observed for a period of time i.e. we can't tell you they have had 3 significant periods of coughing. If, after monitoring your child, they have the symptoms as defined above, then the whole household should isolate and anyone with symptoms should be tested. If they have been sent home with Covid-19 symptoms, their siblings will also have to be sent home, the household isolated and a test booked. As soon as a negative test is confirmed, siblings should return to school and the student being tested may return when they are well. We are unable to alert other schools when a sibling is sent home with symptoms, alerting another school is the responsibility of the parent so we would ask that you do inform other schools where there is a sibling.*

### ***My child says there is no social distancing in school?***

*When the government confirmed the full reopening of schools it was done on the basis that 'the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)'. Given the space available in schools, we have followed the guidance to reduce the risk of transmission where full social distancing is not possible. Examples of protective measures include as far as possible: use of bubbles, one-way systems, hand sanitising, staggered breaks, 'Catch it Bin it Kill it', staggered break/lunchtimes and start/finish times, year group zones and desks facing forwards. We also encourage children to try and maintain a distance from those around them.*

### ***What does close contact mean?***

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)*
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual*
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person*

### ***What does the school do when a positive case is confirmed?***

*We follow the PHE guidelines for education settings.*



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***My family have been on holiday and have been asked to self-isolate. We've been and had a test and it's negative; can students return to school?***

*No. Sorry, your 14-day quarantine period applies even if you have had a negative test.*

***My child is a close contact to a positive case and is in isolation. We've been tested and it's negative, can we return to school?***

*No. Sorry the 14-day isolation period still applies, due to the incubation period of the virus you require the full 14-day isolation even with a negative test.*

***If you are isolating please can you inform school of the date your isolation is due to end. Do we have to inform the school when going for a test?***

*Yes please. The school and local authority are monitoring patterns of absence and testing to give us some advance information of any potential outbreak. Please let us know that you are booking a test and give us the outcome. It also allows us to check that siblings are isolating.*