

27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to think that only a week ago we had a school full of children and staff; how things have changed in such a short space of time!

I hope you have all stayed well this week and again, hope that the social distancing measures will massively reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. From what I have seen in the media, some people have struggled to come to terms with the need to stay at home and avoid social contact but my own observations at Woodloes suggest that our community is taking this seriously. People are supporting each other as much as they possibly can, either by helping those vulnerable members of our community with shopping, collecting medicines, or by maintaining a safe distance by staying at home.

At Woodloes, we have been open every day this week, with a much-reduced staff, to support our critical worker families and those who absolutely need our help. We had 50 pupils in school on Monday but this has steadily reduced with just 17 in today. We are very happy to do our bit to support our critical worker families and we know that they are only using the places we can offer because it is essential to enable them to continue to support the national effort against the virus.

We have set up an online booking system for our critical workers so they can let us know if they need places or not, so we can organise the appropriate staffing levels in advance at school. We will open over Easter to support our critical workers but if you don't need us then we will close completely, to reduce the potential exposure for our own staff.

For those of you currently working with your children at home, I hope your children are engaged and enjoying the activities planned for them in the Virtual Classroom, accessed via our website. The staff have put some fantastic stuff on there which we hope is helping you to manage your children's time productively while they are at home. Our advice, which I'm sure you will have also seen elsewhere, is to try to create a routine for your children at home so they know when it is 'learning time' and when it is not. I know a lot of you will be working from home too which can make this a bit tricky, but hopefully, we will all get used to different ways of working in the weeks ahead.

There is still no indication about how long the school closure will last. We will remain open for our critical worker's children and this is being achieved by staff working on a rota basis for the next few weeks. Staff, who are working from home, will continue to plan home learning activities until next Friday but these will not be available over the 10 day 'Easter holiday' period, as those staff who are not on rota will technically be on holiday.

From a communication perspective, if you need us then please email admin5207@welearn365.com and someone will get back to you as quickly as possible. Teaching staff will continue to communicate with their classes via the class pages in the virtual classroom on the website. **Spring term reports will be emailed to you directly next Tuesday.** If they don't arrive then please check your clutter or spam as we have received reports of school messages being missed. This is still an evolving situation and if there are any updates I will contact you directly via email or put letters and links on the homepage of the website, as well as providing you with a weekly school update.

In the meantime, please take very good care of yourselves, enjoy your daily fresh air and exercise and best wishes to you all and to your families.

Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)