



WOODBROOK VALE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and adapting to the new way of life.

Here at school, we are getting into a rhythm with setting work, staffing a rota for keyworkers' children and responding to enquiries. It is no substitute however, for being with our wonderful students!

Home Learning

The English 'hand-in' programme is working well, so we will be extending to Year 8 next week. Look out for an email to parents of Year 8 on Monday.

We have listened to parents who are worried about their child's workload and are now beginning to personalise the offer on Go 4 Schools. That means some tailoring of tasks so your child might get something slightly different to another, for a reason agreed with the parent, child and teacher.

Return to School

Rumours about the return to school abound!

Nothing official from the government yet, but rest assured we are working behind the scenes to get ready. We are expecting more than two days' notice of a change to current working and we are also expecting Year 10 will be the priority in the secondary sector, as well as continuing to open for keyworkers. When we do open, we will be practicing social distancing and enhanced hygiene. We have learnt a lot from schooling our children of keyworkers safely and much of that practice will be scaled up. Schooling will look very different in the near future and the Senior Leadership Team are already working on models for various scenarios. Hopefully, we might know a little more next week.

Transition

If any parents have children who are joining our Year 7 next year, rest assured we are on track with the preparations. We have been in touch or are about to get in touch with your child's primary school to gather information. We are also looking at the possibility, if schools do open before the summer of offering something appropriate in the way of induction, or alternatively a 'virtual tour'. The team have also roped me in for a 'virtual' head's introduction. As long as they do not expect me to wear a costume, I think I might manage! Please feel free to share this reassurance with any friends who are parents of our future Year 7 students. Should there be any particular concerns regarding extra transition if your child is in a vulnerable group, you can of course contact us on the office email office@wbvs.co.uk and we will direct your query to the correct person.



Limited school opening

For children of Key workers and vulnerable children as defined in the government's guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing> - the school is open. We do ask that parents to contact us first to add their child to the register before sending them in.

Government Laptop Scheme

We finally received contact from the DfE last Friday regarding the scheme they announced in the media. We have been asked to prepare information but we were also told that eligible students will not be likely to get any equipment before early June. That means we must continue with our current measures with offline working. Mrs Moors is coordinating that and many students are quite enjoying the booklet approach. If you have an ICT access issue and need paper based working options, please contact office@wbvs.co.uk or RMoors@wbvs.co.uk

Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

As I keep highlighting, mental health and wellbeing are high priority and we should be watchful at all times. Children can be suffering in silence, or say they are coping when they are not. Mrs Anderson has updated the website pages on this issue with some more useful sources of help and encouragement. We have also occasionally spoken directly to students with parents present in order to try and support. Please do encourage your child to have a look at the website and be open to good mental health practices, such as regular breaks, good sleep hygiene and maintaining positive social contact with friends.

<http://www.woodbrookvale.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Health+and+Wellbeing&pid=78>

Home Heroes

I am thoroughly enjoying hearing about your Home Heroes. Do keep them coming. Teachers are getting in on the act now and nominating your children! Don't be shy parents. It just involves saying a few words about your amazing child to Homeheroes@wbvs.co.uk. We respect privacy and do not mention your child in the gallery if you ask us not to.

Planning Application

Long before Coronavirus, we had been looking to upgrade our changing room facilities and relocate music to create soundproofed learning and practice facilities. The planning application for this work went to the council as we went to school closure and it is currently open for consultation. The current situation means we cannot expect anything to happen soon, but if the planning proposal is approved it will be something wonderful to look forward to once the pandemic has passed.

Sending my best wishes to our whole school community.

Kind regards

Rachael Fraser

