



# WOODBROOK VALE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Carers,

## Welcome to the Summer Term!

Since Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April when we reopened for essential workers, school has continued to feel a strange place. Staff who complete their day on the rota always go home saying how much they have enjoyed being in school. We really must remember how amazing our children are, even though the strain of home schooling for almost three weeks might be showing! We are looking forward to welcoming all our students back, but I have had no official notice. Perhaps early in June?

## Home learning

Going forward, teachers are still setting work on Go 4 Schools. Maths are using their own unique website where children can contact their teachers and submit work. There is some use of Google Classroom in Year 7 and 8 Science, more video tutorials are gradually being added and we are trialling the 'Year 10 English Hand-In Week' this week. This has been a learning curve for us all. We are trying to get better and better at managing the remote learning and finding ways to give feedback. Please remember students can email into the [office@wbvs.co.uk](mailto:office@wbvs.co.uk) if they are stuck with something, or move on to something else.

We have also heard about the strain on printers and ink. You should not need to print out anything and we will be reminding teachers to be mindful of that. Anyone who had issues with ICT can still contact us as we do have some offline learning alternatives.

The challenge we have found is in putting sufficient work up for students to feel challenged, whilst not causing anxiety for those who have less time, less IT access or illness. I would like to reassure you and your children that no child will get 'behind' if they do not cover everything set, or cannot access something. Every child in the UK is in the same boat and there is a huge variety in the completion rates amongst students. Do what you can and we will address any gaps in learning when you return to school.

As a general guide however, in KS3 you should do some maths and English, read and exercise every day as an absolute minimum. In KS4 you should put some time in to each of your subjects in the proportion they appear on your timetable, so if you had only 10 hours available, you might do 1 hour for each of the option subjects 2 for English, 2 for Science, 2 for maths. In school you have 25 hours of learning but it is different when you are working on your own and will definitely be less.



## 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.

## Arrangements for examination results Summer 2020

The process for awarding grades has now been confirmed by Ofqual. Parents and students should refer only to the releases of information from Ofqual and not rely on press stories. You can follow their thinking here: <https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/09/arrangements-for-summer-2020/>. They have published short films for teachers and students to help everyone understand the process better. I have prepared a separate letter for Year 11 students and their families regarding all our arrangements. Please look out for the separate email if you are a parent of a Year 11 student.

## Free School Meals

The process for delivering Free School Meals via the Government Voucher scheme run by Edenred has begun. Thank you to Mrs Moors for administering this. I know she has provided much help to our families and is happy to support them going forward. [RMoors@wbvs.co.uk](mailto:RMoors@wbvs.co.uk)

## Free Laptops

There is limited information available on laptops so far, but it does appear to be a scheme aimed at Year 10 students with no or limited ICT access at home. If you think that applies to you, let us know.

## Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

All NHS mental health trusts are setting up 24/7 helplines, and seeking to use digital and virtual channels, to continue delivering support during the pandemic.

We recommend maintaining social connections, alongside exercise, sleep, diet and routine as essential protective factors for mental health. Resources to promote and support mental wellbeing are included on our website under Parents > Health and well being.

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

Please don't struggle on if you need help with your child's well-being. Send the briefest message to [office@wbvs.co.uk](mailto:office@wbvs.co.uk) asking for a call back. Already, we are grateful to those parents who have let us know about bereavements and family difficulties. Not only does it enable us to provide direct help now, but also to plan services for our return.

If your child has an EHCP, has a social worker or requires additional support then our pastoral and support teams should be speaking with you weekly to ensure that you have everything in place to support your child's learning. The lead for this process is Mrs Anderson.

## Other news

### Ski Trip.

We are pursuing an insurance claim to get back the costs of the trip. We expect to be able to receive compensation for all monies except the non-returnable deposit. As soon as we have an update we will let you know personally via a separate email.



## Local Heroes

Mr Worth has been making PPE for our local Healthcare workers from the Woodbrook Vale DT workshop. Please take a look at the pictures on our twitter feed. We are so proud of him.

Home Heroes continue to be nominated. We gave out another 12 awards this week. Keep the nominations coming in. Visit the school webpage for a reminder of how you can nominate your child view the pictures.

<http://www.woodbrookvale.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Home+Heroes&pid=117>

## Final thoughts

I know people are feeling anxious and frustrated as the lock-down continues. We have to be as upbeat as we can and say, this will pass. We will eventually come back together as a school community, stronger than ever and all the more grateful for the company of one another. It is worth noting how far a word of kindness goes. Many parents have been kind enough to send words of encouragement and thanks in to school and I am sure they are also recognising their delivery drivers, bin collectors, healthcare staff and supermarket workers. Learning how to lift the spirits of others both in the home and in the community is an important life skill and opportunities to practice it are in abundance.

Please tell the students to complete at least one random act of kindness a day - an extra homework from Mrs Fraser.

In the meantime, stay safe all of you.

Kind regards

Rachael Fraser



Wellbeing Award  
for Schools