



31st December 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school opening

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a healthy and safe Christmas and are looking forward to school returning on Monday. As you may have seen in the news, the government has decided that all primary schools in West Sussex are to stay open for the time being. I appreciate that this may be a worrying time, particularly for families with vulnerable members or those who have been directly affected by this terrible pandemic, but I wanted to reassure you that we are continuing to do all that we can to minimise the risk of transmission at school. Not only is it important that we continue to make up any gaps in learning from the previous lockdown but we also provide vital stability, routine, consistency and emotional support for your child during these uncertain times.

I would like to remind you that all drop-off and pick-up will be on foot. With the increased level of transmission, it is even more important that we keep adults to a minimum (one per family) and all adults wear a face covering unless exempt for medical reasons. Please arrive promptly at your allotted time and leave the school grounds as soon as possible, whilst maintaining a social distance at all times. As we are now in Tier 4, "You should not meet with more than one other person from another household outside and should stay 2 metres apart. Where this is not possible, you should stay 1 metre apart with extra precautions such as wearing a face covering."

Although we are pleased that our children will be returning to school, we are aware that the government may instruct our school to partially close if there is an extremely high number of coronavirus cases in our local area. The government has said it will only do this as a last resort but I think it is something that we should all be prepared for.

If this does happen, we will only be able to stay open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will need to continue their learning from home until the restrictions are lifted. In readiness, we have prepared a weekly plan for remote learning which will be emailed and added to our website as soon as it is finalised.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will continue to receive these while at home. We will provide further details of how this will work if our school is told to close.

If you had previously indicated that your child had no home access to digital devices, one will be ordered for you as soon as we receive notice to partially close.

In order to support our planning, it would be helpful to have an idea in advance of which children will need to attend school during a partial closure. Please remind yourselves of the definitions of 'vulnerable children' and 'critical workers' and **email the office if you or your child falls into one of the categories below. Please include the relevant category and your child's name and year group.**

Headteacher: Mrs C Bennett

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Tel: 01403 700280 email: office@wisboroughgreenschool.org.uk





Vulnerable children are those who:

- Have a child in need plan or child protection plan
- Are looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) and have been determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met at school
- Have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by the school or LA, including children who are: on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services; adopted; at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'); living in temporary accommodation; young carers.

Critical workers are those who work in:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services (including the justice system, religious staff, charities delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting)
- Local and national government who are involved in delivering the coronavirus response or essential public services
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide as broad a curriculum as we can under current restrictions including opportunities for children to immerse themselves in a range of interesting and stimulating experiences. Please see our website curriculum page, under key information, for the list of Spring topics (cycle B).

I will be in touch with more details in the event that the school needs to partially close. Please be assured that, despite the lack of information provided for Headteachers by the DfE in advance of national announcements, I will continue to keep you fully informed of any guidance changes without delay.

If you are not already doing so, you may wish to follow us on Twitter @WisGreenPrimary for brief updates.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by email:

office@wisboroughgreenschool.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 4th January**.

Kind regards,

C. Bennett

Caroline Bennett, Headteacher



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