

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**On behalf of us all at Woodlands, we hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break.**

**It has been another very strange and difficult start to the new year for us all, but with the vaccination programme underway there is light at the end of the tunnel.**

Monday's announcement by the Prime Minister has changed circumstances for us all again with the key message:

***“NATIONAL LOCKDOWN: STAY AT HOME!***

***You must stay at home.***

***This is the single most important action we can take to protect the NHS and save lives.”***

The news at this time is extremely worrying, but we can all help by following this advice. The safest place for any person to be is at home.

Due to the lockdown, we have had to reorganise the way Woodlands operates for the next half term. As you may imagine, it has been quite hectic, with staff rushing to put things into place for our children.

The majority of our children will be working remotely during this time and we want to do everything we can to support them and you. School may be closed and there is a reduced number of staff on site, but all our staff are still working and there are a variety of ways in which you can contact us and work with us, which I shall detail below.

Woodlands is closed as a school, but we are offering critical worker childcare. During the Spring lockdown we were able to provide small group support for these families that really needed us. However, it is very different this time. I am concerned by the significant numbers of parents that have applied for a place because we are restricted on numbers due to safety issues and cannot accommodate all these children. Therefore, some families will be unable to access childcare during this time.

The majority of our families managed childcare during the previous Lockdown and I hope they can during this Lockdown too. Please leave the critical worker spaces for those families that need them most, such as our NHS workers.

### **Remote Learning Provision**

Weekly learning will be provided for your child on Google Classroom. It will be ready by Monday morning on a weekly basis.



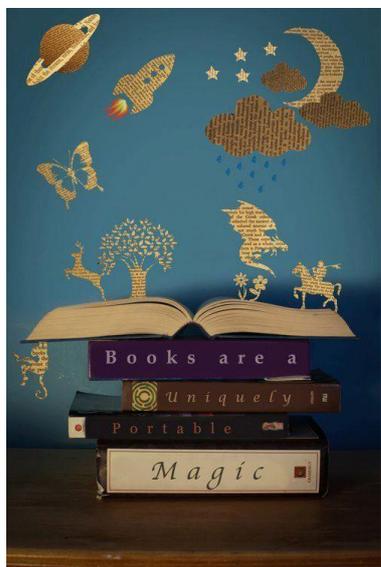
This learning platform will hold the learning that your child needs for the week ahead. It will also provide an example timetable that you may choose to follow during the week.

Every child should have their own login and own password to access Google Classroom. Google Classroom can be accessed through a large number of electronic devices, including Xboxes and play stations.

If you are finding it difficult to use Google Classroom and need a helping hand then please contact your classteacher for assistance. Using new technology can be frustrating at times but please bear with it. There are things on Google Classroom that we can't provide on paper, the 'Twitter type feed' enables children to chat and keep in touch, the quizzes give instant feedback to your child. Work can be downloaded, created and uploaded back to the teacher who can mark the work and provide feedback for your child.

There are Google Classroom help guides available for parents on the school website under Covid and Remote Learning Provision to help you navigate and use the platform.

If all else fails, we can email the work directly to yourselves or provide a paper version of the learning that can be collected weekly from school. However, the expectation of the government is that children need greater access to films / videos of learning which we can't put into a paper version. The electronic version or paper versions can be ordered through your classteacher.



### Learning Focus

The planned learning links directly to your child's curriculum for the year and we are trying to deliver what would have been taught in school during this half term. Therefore, it is important that your child undertakes the learning set, the best that they can.

As before, we do understand the difficulties of supporting your child at home, especially when you are also working yourself. If you need to prioritise learning then we would suggest: reading, English and maths.

Reading daily is the most important learning that your child can do!

Please do share your child's achievements and what they have been up to through email, we love to hear about what our children are doing.

### Completed Learning and Feedback:

- Children are expected to return a couple of pieces of work every few days, to enable the teacher to manage the marking and feedback via Google Classroom.
- All the requested work for each week should have been sent to the teacher by the end of the fifth working day, for marking and feedback.
- Some of the pieces of work can be self-marked, as the teacher will provide the marking scheme.
- Google Quizzes automatically provide instant feedback on performance.
- If you are undertaking work on paper, then key pieces can be photographed or scanned and emailed to the class teacher.
- If you are unable to email, then the work can be dropped off into the 'returned work box' in the school foyer. Please clearly label the work with your child's name. It will be collected and marked after 72 hours have passed and when the teacher is next on the school site.

Returned key pieces of work, particularly maths and English tasks, will enable your class teacher to monitor the progress of your child and identify their next steps.

**Logins and passwords for school applications:** Your child should have brought home a summary page detailing your child's login details for various programmes that you can use at

home with your child. Including Bug Club, Times Table Rock Star, Purple Mash, Charanga and of course Google Classroom. Please contact the teacher if your child did not receive this information.

### **Online safety**

Within the learning there will be links to resources and applications on the internet that are used by the school. Please monitor your child's use of online applications and websites and remind them of the importance of being safe online. There is further information about online safety at the bottom of this letter.

### **Support and communication with Woodlands**

Your class teachers and support staff will be available through the year group email for support in any capacity that we can, when they are not covering critical worker provision.

- [nursery@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- [reception@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:reception@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- [year1@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:year1@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- [year2@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:year2@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- [year3@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:year3@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- [year4@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:year4@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- [year5@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:year5@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- [year6@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:year6@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)

Staff will also talk to their classes directly on a daily basis through the 'Twitter Type feed' on Google Classroom. This is a great opportunity for everyone to say hello to each other and share what they have been up to. Great for emotional wellbeing so that your child knows that every other child is in the same position.

Your child can also message their teacher if they need to ask a question or have got 'stuck' through Google Classroom.

Year group teams will also be contacting your family every few weeks to say hello and keep in touch with you and your child.

### **Contacting the school**

- The main form of contact with Woodlands will be through the main email address: [postbox@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:postbox@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- Please be aware that the office will not always be open and the phones will not always be manned. Although we shall endeavour to have someone by the phone from 9:30 to 2:15.
- The office foyer will be open to collect learning packs from 7:30 to 4:30
- Children can contact their teachers through Google Classroom and through their email.
- Parents can also contact the class teachers through the year group emails

### **Free School Meals**

Currently, if your child is entitled to a free school meal then you are able to order and collect a packed lunch from the foyer on a daily basis from 10:30. Please email postbox with your child's name and year group if you should require this.

The government has indicated that there will be a new system for supporting families with FSM, we haven't received any information regarding this as yet.

## **School closed on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January is a Teacher Training Day in partnership with two other Primary Schools. The focus is staff training on Restorative Practice by a virtual external speaker. Therefore, the school will be closed to all children on this day and no remote learning will be set.

**Dependent upon Government advice,  
we hope to re-open to all our children on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

**We miss our children in school and know that our children miss coming to school. I know the news of the lockdown caused great distress to a number of children, including my own children. School is so much more than a place to learn, it is part of the fabric of our life.**

**Let us pray that this is the final stretch and that soon we shall be able to return to our normal lives and that Woodlands will be open daily for every child.**

**Please remember that we are here to help in any way that we can.**

Yours sincerely,

T G Newton

Headteacher

### **Staying Safe Online at Home**

Children's learning will now be provided through an online-based learning platform – Google Classroom. With the learning being provided or needing the support of the internet, we need to emphasise the importance of ensuring that websites that children are accessing are reliable.

Staff will aim to provide learning that is on reputable sites and will provide the links needed to ensure that the children are gaining the knowledge that is intended.

We take online safety very seriously in school and provide children with ways to protect themselves whilst using the internet. Both you and your children have signed Acceptable Use Policies for the use of technology within school. The rules outlined in these will be the same for online learning at home too.

The children should be aware of the SMART rules (depending on age) which have been taught in school. Please revisit these rules with your children.

Other useful links that you can use to support your child in staying safe online are:

- Internet matters
- London grid for learning
- Net-Aware (NSPCC)
- Parent Info
- Thinkuknow
- UK Safer Internet Centre
- Hungry Little Minds (Apps for 2 to 5 year olds)

Just type the above into Google and it will take you to the correct site. You can also email [onlinesafety@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:onlinesafety@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk) if you have any concerns or are unsure of what to do and I will support you.

Miss Harvey

# BE SMART ONLINE



## S

### SAFE

Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.



## M

### MEET

Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

THINK  
U  
KNOW

## A

### ACCEPTING

Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.



## R

### RELIABLE

You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.



## T

### TELL

Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



## ♥

### BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

