

**Wooden Hill Primary and Nursery School**

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Headteacher

Mrs Joanna Lagares

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Update from Wooden Hill School Governors**

The start of any term is always a bit hectic, but it is safe to say that this term was on another level. As a parent myself, it was quite an adjustment to add home schooling to home working!

However, with a few weeks under our belts, I wanted to write on behalf of the Governors to thank everyone for their support during this difficult time – staff, parents and of course, the pupils that are again adapting their learning during this national lockdown.

Firstly, I'd like to thank all the teachers and staff at school who have been working so hard. Wooden Hill was still preparing to open to all pupils right up until the lockdown was announced. Of course, the school had remote learning plans in place, but throughout the Christmas holidays all primary schools were being told to prepare to open to all students at the start of term (unlike secondary schools, where staged returns had been announced). The Prime Minister's announcement therefore required a huge amount of work at less than 12 hours' notice to be ready for children to learn on the first day back. Staff were in school well into the late evening recording videos, adding learning links and materials to enhance the remote learning offer for children, whilst also adapting classrooms for those pupils that would be on site.

It is important to remember that the school is not closed either. Whilst many of us are adapting to home schooling, the teachers and staff are in school to support those vulnerable children and children of critical workers. The staff continue to put themselves at risk of Covid transmission, with the infection rate remaining high (and certainly much higher than in the previous national lockdown). This is not a theoretical risk happening elsewhere – but a very real risk given we have had self-isolation and positive cases this term.

The government guidance states that we should keep children at home if we can and that the school must limit on site attendance. The school must prioritise places for vulnerable children, followed by children where all parents/carers in the household are critical workers. Places were then offered to children where one parent/carer was a critical worker and the other could not work from home.

LEARNING, *Growing* & *Achieving* Together

There are limited places available, and all have been offered in accordance with the above criteria. In most year groups we now have waiting lists for families needing on site provision. Therefore, if your child is currently attending school, but you are working from home, please really consider whether you require an essential place at school.

I ask this knowing that supporting our children to learn from home is not easy. Like many of you I am struggling to work from home and give the support that my children need. There are times when I feel I am failing at both. We should all remember that it is an impossible task to work from home full time whilst also home schooling.

The most important thing at the moment is to look after yourself and your children. Minimising stressors as much as possible at this time is vital for mental health. If it is a difficult day, and you need a break from home schooling, then take it. If your children are old enough, try and encourage them to do some independent learning, or see if they will help a younger sibling with their learning.

The school is still here to support you as well. The teachers are available between 9am – 3pm and will be more than happy to support you and your child in whatever way they can. Our family support advisor, Laura, is also more than happy to offer support and advice so please do let us know if you would like Laura to make contact with you.

The school will continue to build on the provision and fix any teething problems as we go along. We want all the children back in school as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, stay safe and don't let remote learning be the something that stresses you out.

Thank you for your continued support for the school during these most exceptional times. As always, the governors welcome any communication and feedback via the Clerk: [Dawn.Deykin@office.woodenhill.bracknell-forest.sch.uk](mailto:Dawn.Deykin@office.woodenhill.bracknell-forest.sch.uk).

Best wishes



Gavin Handford  
Chair of Governors (on behalf of all governors)