



## **Wootton-by-Woodstock CE Primary School**

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3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent,

### **NEWSLETTER 1**

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to school for the new academic year and whatever it may bring. We continue to live in a time of great uncertainty which makes life challenging for everyone. Through this, at Wootton, we aim to make school run as smoothly as it can, under the circumstances, being slightly better prepared than last year to cope with unforeseen events. We will try to

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:6-7

### **COVID COMMUNICATIONS**

There are a number of items attached with this newsletter which we have been asked to forward to parents. Please find:

A ‘back to school’ letter from the Director of Children’s Services for Oxfordshire

A document containing advice to help parents know when to keep their child at home in case of illness

A document which helps parents and those who work with children to recognise the signs of anxiety and respond appropriately.

These have all been sent with the aim of helping parents cope with Covid\_19 related practicalities in the coming terms. There is also plenty of updated information for parents which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. Just click through the links to find what you are looking for.

Should any of you require anything further that we have not yet provided then please let us know and we will endeavour to support you as far as we possibly can.

### **CHILDREN**

Let us just remind ourselves why we are here! It can seem at times, amongst the pressure and anxiety, myriad instructions, and health and safety guidelines, that we are simply running an institution for its own sake. Today, it has been a delight to welcome back the children who have all settled in quietly and are keen to tell their holiday tales and share their experiences with a smile. I must stress again

how well our children have coped with the continuing change, the new rules and systems and have therefore brought joy (and amusement) to the staff. It continues to feel like a true family.

This term we welcome Sophia, Aria, Max and Ellie to Ash group.

#### STAFF

We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Vicky Lawrence and Ms Lynn Cambrey who have both overcome their own difficulties and 'returned to the fray' with immense positivity. It is good to have our full complement of staff as we begin the new year. Long may it continue.

#### CURRICULUM

This term our whole school topic is Discoveries of the Great Explorers. It is unfortunate and disappointing that we cannot make the planned visit to the British Maritime Museum at this time but we will do our best to ensure that the work is as exciting as possible. We are able to stream lessons and experiences from the museum and will do a little exploration ourselves as to how we do this. It is now possible for families to visit the museum themselves by making pre-booked visits. This may be something you would wish to consider at some point.

Curriculum topic overviews will be attached at the end of this letter, for your ease of reference, as you are no longer able to view them physically in school and they can also be found on the school website:

<https://www.wootton-woodstock.oxon.sch.uk>

#### GOOGLE CLASSROOM

This term we will continue to use Google Classroom to prepare and plan learning for all pupils. Once teachers have constructed their medium term plans, their daily planning will be available on Google Classroom and can therefore be accessed by pupils in school as well as at home. This ensures that any family who is self-isolating or under quarantine is able to seamlessly access the same work as pupils in school. Lessons will be scheduled daily but, once released, will be available indefinitely. This means that children will not be able to 'race ahead' and families will be able to organise the work schedule around their other commitments as necessary. It means that learning can be adapted on a day to day basis in a similar way to that which teachers would take in school in normal circumstances. Teachers have used some of the time on INSET days to share their knowledge about how Google Classroom works (Staff were rather thrown into the deep end with this technology and each member learnt something different.) and we expect learning provision and class teacher responses to be more consistent across the school as a result.

#### HOMEWORK

We will use Google Classroom for setting homework. Each teaching group will have a topic called Homework which is distinctly different from the expressions we use when referring to homeworking or working at home! Homework is work provided for the children specifically to do at home in addition to their class lessons and which should be handed in according to the teachers' instructions. Generally, there is about one week allowed for completing homework but sometimes the work may require more or less time than this. Because the system works in exactly the same way as the class learning there should be no excuses for not doing or 'handing in' homework!

#### GOOGLE DOCUMENTS

Teaching staff are expected, still, to keep risk of contamination to a minimum by maintaining the minimum exchange of items between home and school. As teachers become more adept at using Google Classroom they will learn how to construct online documents so that online interaction can take place more effectively and work can be edited easily. This will be useful for pupils in isolation as

well as for homework activity as work will not need to be physically handed in and marking turn around can be more rapid.

#### COMMUNITY WORSHIP AND HARVEST SERVICE

This term worship will be a little different. We will be looking at ways in which we can provide community worship, harvest or sharing assemblies while social distancing and will let you know what is decided. Currently we have set aside Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September for Harvest and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October for sharing. Please look out for more definitive arrangements soon.

#### CLUBS

Please note that Oxford Active after school club will be running with immediate effect. Because of the associated costs with this after school club it is no longer feasible to continue in 2021 and will be closing at the end of the autumn term. However, if the service is valued and there is sufficient take up the school will consider running its own version of the club for the remainder of the year.

#### PTIs (Parent Teacher Interviews)

These will be held in the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> October. We are holding these slightly earlier so that parents and teachers have an opportunity to speak earlier and catch up sooner following the disruption of lock down.

#### INSET DAYS 2020-2021

This year further INSET days will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 28<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Please view the Useful Dates on the school website for all other planned events. These are currently minimal because, at this stage, we do not know what we will be able to action over the course of the year. SATs will be undertaken throughout May and we strongly advise parents not to take their holidays during this period or, indeed, at any point during term time. Please view the attendance policy for information regarding absences from school.

#### ANNUAL FORMS

Each September we send out a pack of forms for you to complete and return to school to make your views known and to provide us with the information which we are required to hold. The pack for this year will be put together by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. However, if you have changed your telephone number, address or email address since the last data check please phone or email to let Maria Withey know as soon as possible. It is important that we hold the correct contact information for every child. Thank you.

With best wishes,



Valerie Lucas  
Head Teacher