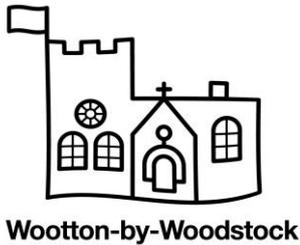


Wootton-by-Woodstock CE Primary School



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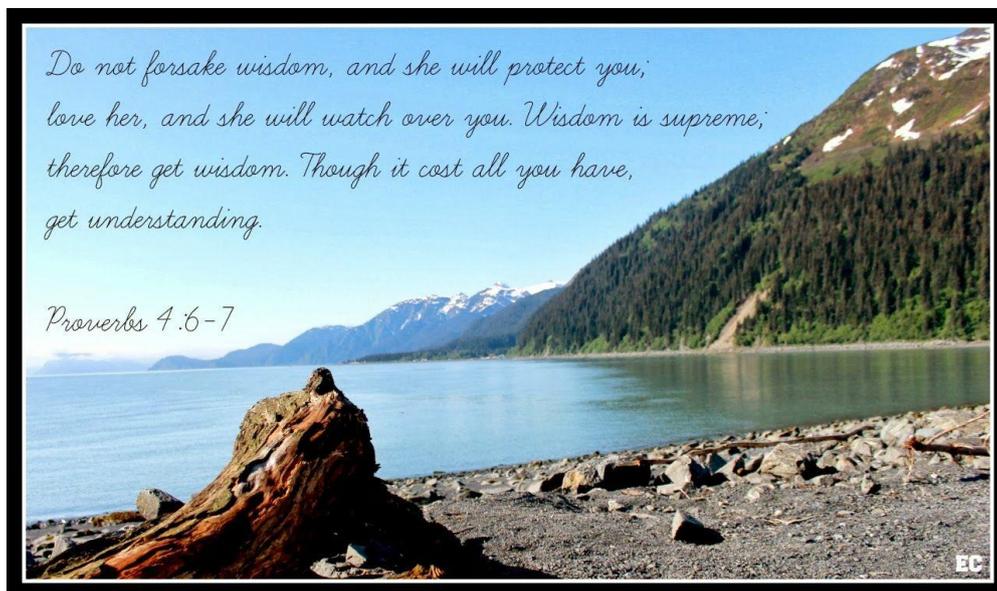
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Thursday 29th April 2021

NEWSLETTER 9

Dear Parent,

We hope that you are all enjoying a little more normality in your lives at present. It is truly uplifting to have all the children together as a group for worship again this term and, as a bonus, we are able to use the new church space for this which is even better, a long-awaited local resource! Our current value is Wisdom and we are thinking about Jesus' wise words and what he taught through using parables. There are numerous words of wisdom in the Bible. Consider Proverbs and teach your children well!



THE BIG ASK

Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England is trying to gain understanding herself. You and your child can help. Please visit the following page to answer a short survey to supply your views on what matters to you and your child. It could make a difference to the future of all our children:

[The Big Ask | Children's Commissioner for England Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

CURRICULUM

This term pupils are using Blenheim Park as a stimulus for a variety of work on lives in the past as well as plant habitats and investigations. Please see the overviews supplied on the school website.

SATs AND ASSESSMENTS REMINDER

SATs will not take place this year. Instead, teachers will use continuous assessment procedures to ascertain the standard at which your child is working. These will be supplemented by formal assessment using past papers. The school will report 'in-house' data at the end of the year in the usual ways; on the school website and through a school report to parents in July.

CORONAVIRUS RISK ASSESSMENT

Please note that the risk assessment has been updated for our return to school this term. The changes are small but significant to us in school:

The school is now operating as one bubble, returning to single playtimes and whole school worship, Staff no longer wear masks, a few visitors are welcomed into school but these must wear masks.

Please may we remind parents to **continue to social distance when waiting at the school gates**. We know how hard it is to keep this up after a whole year, but the pandemic is not over yet and there are still members of the community who are at risk. "Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise" (and healthy)! **Proverbs 19:20**

LFD TESTS

Please see the letter below from the Local Authority. All adults are encouraged to take tests twice per week to mitigate against a resurgence of the Coronavirus and to contribute to understanding about spread and effectiveness of the vaccine. The teaching staff have been doing this for some months now; really, it becomes a part of your daily routine and can help make a difference.

SUN SAFETY

While the warmer weather seems to be a long time arriving this spring, we are pointing you in the direction of the school's sun safety policy as a reminder to keep your children safe when the sun does arrive. Please view it [here](#).

MRS PALMER

We now know that Mrs Palmer will not be returning to school this academic year. The arrangement that we currently operate with Ms Brown and Mrs Walsh will therefore continue up until the Summer holiday. We are sure that you will all join us in wishing Mrs Palmer well as soon as possible; she is much missed by the children and staff.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

We wish to remind parents that all children should be wearing school uniform and appropriate school shoes when attending school. The pandemic seems to have had the residual effect of relaxing attitudes towards school dress, since our return to school. While this is a, comparatively, minor issue we would like to maintain school standards of discipline and safety in every way. A reminder about the clothing code is provided here:

For Normal Class Wear

Acceptable clothing will consist of a polo shirt, sweatshirt, and any one of skirt, culottes, pinafore, skort, short/long trousers or jogging bottoms.

Polo shirts	These must be in navy, white or ‘winter emerald’. They must be plain or have the school logo. No other logos will be acceptable. No T-shirts without collars please.
Trousers, jogging bottoms, skirts, culottes and pinafores	These should be grey or navy. They must be standard school wear. No stripes or logos will be acceptable. We recommend that younger children have trousers with elasticated waists for ease and speed of changing for PE. Girls may wear gingham dresses in any colour in the summer term.
Sweatshirts/Cardigans	School sweatshirts/cardigans only.
Footwear	The school staff recommend sensible ‘proper’ shoes for school. Some fashion footwear, for instance, mules or that with high heels, really is not suitable for school on grounds of health and safety. We know that footwear can be very expensive, and children grow out of shoes quickly. However, children need to be comfortable for an active and varied school day.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

14th May: School reading promotion activity, yet to be confirmed.

May: Trip to Blenheim Park, date to be confirmed

Term 6: Trip to the National Space Centre, date to be confirmed

Term 6: Activity day with Tackley, pandemic permitting, date to be confirmed

We await further guidance from the DfE before we re-instate other events such as sharing assemblies or performances, for example.

SWIMMING

Swimming begins tomorrow for Osprey class only. Children will be accompanied by Ms Brown and Mrs Clemons. Children will need to bring close fitting swimming costumes/trunks (no shorts or bikinis), a swimming hat and a towel. We also request a voluntary contribution, towards the transport costs, of £3 per week payable to the school via School Money. Swimming hats may be purchased from school via the ‘shop’ on SchoolMoney; please order online and these will be handed directly to the pupils tomorrow. The wearing of goggles is discouraged for reasons explained in the following excerpt from the county school swimming policy.

Guidance on Goggles

Association for Physical Education and Swim England Guidance:

While swimming goggles may make a child feel comfortable in the pool while they are learning to swim, if they accidentally end up in water it is unlikely they will be wearing them.

It is vital that children are comfortable swimming with or without goggles so they don’t panic in an unexpected situation.

Goggles are not normally recommended for School Swimming lessons, where swimmers have poor control in the water (beginners), or for single short races in galas. The pupil's attention can be compromised by the need to adjust and replace goggles.

The decision to allow swimming goggles during lessons is down to the school's PE Policy and communication with the School Swimming Provider. Pupils with medical eye conditions may need to be allowed to wear goggles.

Any deviation from the guidelines should be noted in the risk assessment for the activity. Knowledge about individual children's needs remains critical in determining the wearing of goggles.

Parents are responsible for requesting permission that goggles be worn by their children and schools are responsible for collecting and recording such requests.

The Swimming Teacher will ultimately decide whether the wearing of goggles is appropriate for the activity being undertaken. Children will be asked to remove their goggles for self-rescue and water-based games; e.g. water polo. For some swimmers where speed and competence increases, there may be a need for pupils to wear goggles. Club swimmers for example will benefit from the use of goggles due to the longer daily exposure to chlorine.

Wearing prescription goggles for pupils who are very short sighted, may result in a safer swimming environment.

The Swimming Teacher for the group is responsible for determining whether any pupil wearing goggles is using them safely and for a positive purpose. If they are not, then the goggles should be removed. Ill-fitting goggles may mist up or fill up with water, thus affecting visibility. School staff should not fit or adjust a student's goggles.

From Oxfordshire's Safe Practice in School Swimming Policy which can be found [here](#).

As parents, **you are responsible for teaching your child to put on and take off goggles in the correct and safe fashion** (slipping them off the head and not by stretching the retaining band). **Choose a pair of goggles with British Standards Institution (BSI) instruction on the package for the correct way to put them on and take them off (BS 5883:1996).**

With all good wishes,



Valerie Lucas, Head Teacher



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Kevin Gordon Corporate Director for Children's
Services

Date: 26 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter provides important information about COVID testing.

Access to free, regular, symptom-free rapid coronavirus testing is a significant step forward to stop the spread of coronavirus, paving the way for businesses and society reopening. You can access free, rapid lateral flow tests (LFDs) for yourself and your family to use twice a week, in line with clinical guidance. Children of primary school age or younger within your household are not asked to test at this time. Further information about symptom-free testing in Oxfordshire can be found at [Symptom-free testing | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

One in 3 people with COVID-19 do not experience any symptoms and may be spreading the virus unwittingly. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. Since rapid testing was introduced, over 120,000 positive cases that would not have been found otherwise have already been identified by LFDs. By making rapid tests available to everyone, more cases will be detected, breaking chains of transmission and saving lives.

Alongside the rollout of the vaccine, regular testing is going to be an essential part of the easing of restrictions as it will help us quickly suppress the spread of variants. Through new testing technology, positive cases of variants of concern are being detected faster than ever before. More people getting a test will increase our ability to identify and control variants.

LFD tests are for people who are symptom free. They can identify people who have COVID but have no symptoms, and who could be passing it on to others without knowing.

Who are COVID LFD home test kits for?

- All Adults
- Children and young people who are in secondary school and college (tests provided by the schools).

Primary school aged children or younger children are **NOT** currently part of the Government's LFD testing programme.

How can I get my COVID LFD home test kits?

There are a number of ways of getting kits, depending on your circumstances. They can be collected locally or ordered for home delivery. There are also testing sites for LFD testing. See link for details. [Regular rapid coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests if you do not have symptoms - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health-a-z/regular-rapid-coronavirus-covid-19-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms)

What's the purpose of the LFD test?

Adults and secondary school pupils who do not have any symptoms are asked to test twice a week to increase the chance of identifying someone who has Covid-19 and reduce possible transmission.

A negative LFD test is not a reliable way of ruling out COVID. You should therefore continue to take the additional measures, such as social distancing and using face masks.

If you or your child are identified as a contact of a case, you should not be accessing a test unless you are symptomatic. In these circumstances you should take a PCR test. Isolation as a contact of a case should only end after the 10-day period, regardless of whether you have accessed a test and the result.

If you have symptoms of COVID

If you, your child or anyone in the household has symptoms that could be COVID, no matter how mild, you need to get a PCR test.

Get a PCR test - www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test **Do not use an LFD home test.**

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. This helps to ensure that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

What's the difference between LFD home tests and PCR tests?

The PCR test is for people with symptom of COVID. The results take a day or two to come back.

The LFD test is for people without symptoms of COVID. You can do the test at home and get the result immediately. If the result is positive you will need to get a PCR test to confirm the result.

Whilst the booklet accompanying some home test LFD kits do say that they are suitable for children under 12, using them for primary age children or younger is not currently Government policy.

Do's and Don'ts for Adults and Secondary school pupils - Summary

DO take the LFD test twice a week and report your result whether it is positive or negative following the instructions in your test kit.

DO Confirm a positive LFD test result by getting a PCR test

The household should start self-isolating

Book a PCR test appointment or order a PCR test kit to be delivered to your home.

If the PCR test is negative, the household can stop self-isolating

DON'T use the LFD test for your primary or pre-school aged children
If they have been instructed to self-isolate as a contact of a COVID case – a negative result (either LFD or PCR) will not allow your child to return to school or nursery before the end of their 10-day self-isolation period.

DON'T use the LFD test if your child or anyone in the household has COVID symptoms. If you, your child or anyone in the household has COVID symptoms, they must book a PCR test.

Thank you to you and your families for your support and understanding at what we know is still a challenging time.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KSG', is centered on a white background. The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director for Children's Services