

The Willows Primary School Weekly Update – Week ending 5th March 2021

CONGRATULATIONS!

We have made it!

It is with great pleasure that I am writing the final weekly update of this final lockdown! (Well let's trust it is the final one!!) Although I enjoy communicating with you in this way it is far better to see you all in person and I can't wait to be on the road on Monday morning to welcome everybody back to school. Our school family is a wonderful community and it is important for communities to be together, work together and in our context learn together.

As a community we treasure our school values and encourage every member to up hold these in all aspects of school life. We will be reminding the children of these as they return to their learning bubbles.

- CARE – We care for, and respect ourselves, each other and our environment
- CHALLENGE – We have the courage to accept challenges and show resilience in all that we do
- RESPONSIBILITY – We take personal responsibility for our learning, our actions and our words
- SELF-BELIEF – We strive to grow in confidence and belief in ourselves

Furthermore, as a community we also need to ensure that we continue to follow Government Covid restrictions and rules to keep ourselves and each other safe. Please can I ask that you do so to enable us to keep all our bubbles open. We are still in the national lockdown and only at 'Step 1' of the 'Roadmap out of Lockdown', where we are told to keep to the following:

- Schools are open for all students
- Recreation or exercise with household or one other person. **No household mixing**
- Wrap around care
- **Stay at home**
- Funerals (30), wakes and weddings (6)

We will continue to operate our staggered starts and finishes for the school day to ensure that we reduce the number of people at the school gates. The timings of these were in last week's update and are on the school's website under the parent tab and Covid 19. Can I remind you that we ask for you to:

- Stick to bubble times closely
- Accompany children - **one adult only**

- Maintain **social distancing** requirements
- Move on as quickly as possible
- Ring or email school if you would like to communicate with staff
- Some parents have suggested that it may be appropriate to wear face coverings – this is entirely up to you
- Please use the **Covid school email address** if you need to communicate a positive test result to us (especially at the weekend) admin@willowstimperley.com

The Government have now made Lateral Flow Tests available to any household which has a primary school aged child living in their bubble. (Please note that you would still need to book a PCR test at a centre to confirm a positive LFD test). Please visit the following link if you would like to access tests to monitor yours and your children's health in regards to Covid 19

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Thank you to all the children and parents who have completed and sent in the 'Lockdown Experience' and 'Home Learning Feedback' forms. These have been very interesting to read and have given us a great insight into the children's time away from school. We will be reflecting on the information provided and will be considering the questions asked as well as the requests and suggestions made. We will do all we can to support every child with their return to learning as well as being mindful of their social, physical and emotional wellbeing.

Last week I informed you of the postponement of parents' evenings. This was discussed at our staff meeting on Monday and it was decided that it would be better if we allowed the children to settle back into school over the next few weeks before we communicated formally with you. Parents' evenings will therefore be at the beginning of next term on Tuesday 27th April 3.30pm - 7.30pm and Thursday 29th April 3.30pm – 5.30pm via Zoom. (We will only be at 'Step 2' of the 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' at this point, where there will be no household mixing indoors so we cannot hold them in school) Of course we will contact you or you can contact us in the meantime if there are any concerns.

As we look forward to a brighter and freer future the staff are planning ahead. We will inform specific year groups of events and activities that will affect them as soon as we receive the relevant information from the Government or outside agencies and decisions have been made. Please rest assured that we will do all we can to provide the 'normal' opportunities for the children if and when restrictions allow, for example; swimming, Trafford Wider Opportunities music lessons, sports days, sports clubs, puzzle club, school visits, Robinwood and Year 6 leavers' events.

A number of parents have asked about PE days for the rest of term. Mr Codd, our PE co-ordinator, is busy contacting outside providers about what they can offer in term of curriculum PE sessions. Please keep an eye on your email accounts and your children's Seesaw accounts for notifications of PE days.



The first 'event' we are holding is the 'World Book Day' celebration of reading. This will take place next Friday, 12th March. The children may come to school in comfy clothes of their choice (they do not have to wear a costume!) We will be sharing the love of books and reading with them in their bubbles with fun activities and even some surprise, exciting and novelty proceedings!!!

I would like to finish by acknowledging what an incredible job you have all done with the home learning with your children. The staff have worked extremely hard in providing stimulating and creative learning opportunities for all, but it is your implementation of and help with these at home which will have made all the difference. We feel very blessed with the loyal and dedicated community of parents that we serve and thank you for all your support, patience and understanding over the past couple of months.

Let's trust that the rest of this academic year runs smoothly and that we can return to a 'real normal' in September! Take care, look after yourselves and each other.

Keep safe.

Mrs Warren