



Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Opening thoughts

Once again, we find ourselves in a changing world and seek to manage changing advice as we calm the anxieties and tensions that come with this new uncertainty. I hope that the latest Covid-19 response doesn't impact too greatly on our preparations for Christmas and the activities we have planned over the coming weeks.

Sadly, Covid-19 is very much high on everyone's agenda once again. So I am writing to you to outline what we can all do as a community to protect one another.

As you will be aware, currently children do not need to isolate if they have been a close contact to anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 unless they live in the same household. If someone in the same household tests positive then we will be asking you take your child for a PCR test, isolate until the results are in and if negative, they can return to school.

At present, we understand that the new variant has currently changed the isolation rules and could potentially cause a lot of disruption for our school and the children, families, and staff within it. Anyone who is identified as a close contact to someone who tests positive for Covid-19 Omicron variant will have to isolate for 10 days regardless of age or vaccination status.

In school, this would mean that we may have to close year group bubbles and move to remote learning if staffing was significantly impacted. This is obviously something that we want to avoid at any time, but particularly as we get so close to the Christmas holidays, and everyone looks forward to spending time with their families and loved ones. So, I ask once again for your support in some simple actions that will help to protect our community. The following actions will help all of us within our community:

Face Coverings

We ask that you wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting your children from school. If you are exempt then please wear a lanyard to indicate this or please speak to us in advance. We will also be asking all visitors to the school to wear face coverings and this is also true of staff who are using communal areas.

Social Distancing

Please do contact the school office, ideally by email admin@woodford.northants.sch.uk or phone 01832 733 221. If you do need to come to the office in person, please ensure that there is only one adult in the reception area at one time and you are wearing a face mask unless you are exempt

Symptoms

Be extra vigilant on monitoring your child for any symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, high temperature, loss of sense of smell or taste) and seek a PCR test if your child displays these symptoms. Please be considerate of the fact that we are also being extra vigilant and if we contact you to ask you to collect your child and get them a PCR test please remember that we are following government guidance. Anyone with symptoms, however mild, must isolate at home until the results of a PCR test are known.



Illness

We are aware from colleagues in other schools that they are noticing that children are often displaying other symptoms such as headache, sore throat or upset stomach. Although we can't enforce seeking a PCR test with these symptoms, you may wish to consider doing one as an extra layer of protection for our school community.

Lateral Flow Tests

The guidance for schools asks that all secondary age students and all school staff take part in lateral flow tests twice a week. The staff in school are taking part in these tests and it has enabled us to quickly identify Covid-19 cases. Test kits can be ordered from the NHS website. [click here to visit the NHS website.](#)

If your child needs to isolate please contact the school office and we will arrange for the class teachers to send you work for your child to complete if they are well enough.

Whilst we are forever hopeful that our current plans, and us working together, will enable the school to remain fully open, we wanted to be prepared in the event of class or year group closures.

In the event that we have to move to remote learning for class or year groups, we will share the expectations around this at that time.

Safeguarding, GDPR and Expectations

If we have to move to remote learning, all of the sessions will be recorded for safeguarding purposes. In keeping with GDPR, these are closed sessions and will be deleted after a short period of time.

We have very clear expectations for our live sessions and we will ask the following:

- Parents are asked to be present in the room with their child during the meetings but must be off screen and must not contribute or interrupt the live session.
- Parents support high expectations for behaviour and conduct during sessions, and we will be insisting on these in the same way that we do when we are in the classroom.
- Children should be actively listening and participating in sessions; they will be required to raise the virtual 'hand' to speak and should remain 'muted' unless they are asked to 'unmute'.
- Children should not be eating, drinking or playing with anything during these sessions
- Children should be dressed appropriately for learning – no pyjamas.

As a school, we will continue to share expectations and give praise to children that are meeting them, as we would do in the classroom.

Hopefully, we will not have to move to remote learning but if we do and you have any trouble please do not hesitate to email your child's class teacher and they will call you to offer advice and support.

Thank you for your continued support in protecting our school community.



Parent governor

We are currently looking to appoint a parent governor. If you would like further information please do look on our school website under the vacancies section [Click here to open website](#)

Christmas Fete

We are holding our Christmas Fete tomorrow on **Saturday 4th December from 10.00am-14.00pm.** There will be stalls, Christmas themed activities and crafts, a festive cafe and a visit from Father Christmas! So please come and see us if you can.

Christingle service

Our Christingle church service will be taking place next week on **Tuesday 7th December at 18.00pm.** The service will be held at St Mary's Church and it would be lovely for you to come and join us.

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 10th of December is a chance for children to come to school wearing mufti, but this time the theme is Christmas Jumpers. This is a charity fundraiser so we are asking for a £1.00 donation from children to support Save the Children. You're not just wearing a jumper - you're becoming a superhero and making a difference for others.

Panto season...

We are really looking forward to our Reception-Year 2 Christmas play. We are planning on performing this in front of a live audience but with national COVID-19 cases still unpredictable, there will be some additional safety measures:

- We will only be allowing members of the child's household to attend. This means this year unfortunately we will not be able to welcome grandparents and other relatives to come and watch. This will limit the number of households mixing.
- All children over 11 and adults should take a lateral flow test on the day of the performance, for details of how to access these free tests please [click here to visit the website](#)
- Please DO NOT come to the performance if you develop any symptoms of Covid (high temperature, new continuous cough or a change/loss of sense of taste/smell.)
- Please wear a face mask if you would like to.

The performance date is **Wednesday 15th of December at 09.30am.** We very much look forward to welcoming you in to school to celebrate the festive season.

Christmas Raffle

All children have now taken home a book of 5 raffle tickets which are £1.00 per ticket. The draw will be made on **Thursday 16th December after school.** I would like to apologise, as I may have sent a message that caused confusion. I would like to confirm the tombola will be at the fete 4th and the raffle drawn on the 16th.

Christmas Lunches

As a school we will be having our Christmas lunch on **Thursday 16th December.** These must be ordered as they will only be allocated to those who have ordered them. To order you book via the normal booking process, however if you are having issues with this, please do contact the school via bursar@woodford.northants.sch.uk and we will support you the best we can.



Online Advent Calendar 2021

Canon Jane Whittington and Rachel Boxer from the Diocese of Guildford have shared a brand-new online Advent Calendar for schools, with a primary and a secondary version. The content behind the door's links to the theme 'Everyone is Welcome', and they have chosen Bible passages that demonstrate welcome and inclusion, using images and videos that reflect a diversity of ethnicities and cultures to illustrate these stories.

Each day you will find an image and a Bible reference with some wondering questions to think about together. For primary schools there is a video version of the story or passage, and for secondary schools on some of the days they have included a video that explores the theme.

The doors will not open until the actual day in December, but they have put an overview of the contents of the calendars on their website, also attached to this message, so you can check the videos and wondering questions if you wish. They may change the videos, add extra videos or change the images if they come across something better before the opening date!

This link takes you to the webpage that has the links to open the calendar and the overview documents to help teachers to plan for how they will use it in school: [click here to open website](#).

Café Church

Reminder that Café Church will be re-starting again this week on **Sunday 5th December at 10.30am** at St Mary's Church, when there will be a range of activities for you to take part in and refreshments will be available too, so please support if possible. Some more dates for your diary are; St Mary's Carol Service which is **Sunday the 12th of December at 16.00pm** and then there will be a Crib Service on **Friday 24th December at 16.00pm**.

Collective Community Partnership

As I have previously stated we are all trying to make an important contribution to the children's achievements at school and I want to develop a great relationship between the school and the community that it serves.

To develop this relationship, I will be holding several events over the year, that will provide an opportunity for me to meet you and share key information. These events will take place at different times of the year and will last roughly 30-45 minutes. I hope this will enable you to attend, but also then share any ideas or concerns you may have. Please see details of these events below:

Wednesday 08th December 2021, 18.00pm start
Wednesday 09th February 2022, 18.00pm start
Wednesday 23rd March 2022, 18.00pm start
Wednesday 18th May 2022, 18.00pm start
Wednesday 13th July 2022, 18.00pm start

Our next Collective Community Partnership meeting is due to take place **Wednesday 08th December at 18.00pm**. This will give us all an opportunity to work together to look what is important to you and your child's education. We will focus primarily on curriculum planning for the future, so your input will be extremely valuable.

Friday, December 3, 2021



Parent View

Thank you to all the responses we have already received, they are proving to be a great source of support already. But this is a final request to see if you could support us by completing a quick survey which allows parents to give their views about their child's school. By 'parents', we mean any person with parental responsibility for a child at Woodford CE school.

All responses will be collated and used to see what is working well and for any areas of development to be addressed. **Please click here to open the online version of the survey.** A paper version of the survey is also available from reception should you wish to complete one that way.

Kind Regards

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