



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds everyone well. I just wanted to take this opportunity to provide parents with a quick update on happenings in school.

### **Staffing**

I am really pleased to announce that we have created a new post at Woodthorne of Family Support Worker. I am even more pleased to announce that Mrs Pocock, previously of Year 1, has been appointed into the position. This has of course left a gap in Year 1 and we are interviewing next week for a new Teaching Assistant.

Over the break, Mr Meyrick left Woodthorne. Fortunately, we were able to quickly appoint and we now have Tania Newton as the new addition to our front office team.

### **Governors**

We have now appointed two parent governors following the parent ballot in December. Lahari Jangra and Christopher Mackintosh were voted in by parents. We also have appointed a new Co-opted Governor, Sarah Green, who will be starting at the same time.

### **Ventilation in classrooms**

One of the most effective ways of reducing the risk of the spread of COVID is to ensure all of our classrooms are well ventilated. Although our heating is constantly on, this does mean that the classrooms are colder than they usually would be. As such, please feel free to layer your children up in the morning with vests or extra t-shirt underneath uniform etc. Your child may also wear their coats in the classroom as an extra layer, if they wish to do so.

### **COVID**

We currently have a small number of cases of COVID across school. We have eleven cases across school with no more than 2 in any year group. However, numbers are exceptionally high within the community and we are expecting that to transition into school over the next week or so. Therefore, we would recommend that children are tested using LFDs twice weekly to support identifying those that are asymptomatic, thus minimising the spread. Please note, although the



known symptoms remain loss of taste or smell, a high temperature or a continuous cough, we have observed a significant number of the cases presenting with other symptoms of illness. We still have a number of measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission as can be seen below:

- Electronically reporting each case to Public Health to support them to advise us of any outbreaks.
- Cleaning measures are in place – regular touch point cleaning throughout the day.
- Limiting the mixing of children during lesson time (with the exception of Phonic teaching and set teaching in Year 6 where children are in consistent groups).
- Hand hygiene – hand sanitizers are in communal areas to encourage staff to clean their hands. Children are also encouraged to wash their hands at regular intervals with soap and water.
- We are actively applying ventilation measures (windows and doors open during classes). We also have CO2 monitors in each classroom.
- We are still implementing and encouraging mask wearing for staff. The guidance on this is changing next week with the requirement to do so being removed. However, we will keep this in place for staff at Woodthorne.
- Staff are asked to LFD test twice weekly.
- We currently have virtual assembly instead of face to face.
- The majority of staff meetings are virtual, with a small percentage face to face where practical activities are needed.
- Congregating in staff room is limited to 4 members of staff in the staff room at any one time
- Visitors must wear face covering when coming into school. We are restricting visitor numbers and carrying meetings out on Teams where possible.
- Staff are briefed weekly on the COVID-19 status within the school.

We have now been informed by Public Health to seek advice when we get to 30% of cases within one class. We will continue to follow their advice about when and how we report outbreaks to parents and how we manage the risk across school. Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing for individual cases. NHS Test and Trace will follow up with contacts of positive cases and give parents advice depending on their circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support.

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Yours faithfully,

T Hinkley

Headteacher