



# Woodstone Community Primary School

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*Growing together, Learning forever*

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought it was important to update you on the current situation and how this impacts on us here at Woodstone.

We now have some children and some staff who are self-isolating and as this was yesterday increased to a period of 14 days, children and staff who are still attending school will notice their friends and colleagues are missing. At present all cases of self-isolation are for precautionary reasons.

From my point of view there is a great deal of frustration as answers are not coming quickly enough from the Local Authority or the government, but I am reassured that they have teams who have been working around the clock to try and find solutions to the many issues we are now beginning to face.

I expect we will see further announcements in the coming days and we are in daily contact with the authorities to ensure we are supported properly (usually three to four emails per day!).

I know that many of you are expecting the government to announce a wide closure of schools and you may be troubled by the fact that on the one hand, the Prime Minister has announced wide measures to restrict travel and promote social distancing, but on the other, he has kept schools open. The Prime Minister was clear yesterday that essential functions need to continue, and schools are considered an essential function at this point in time. The government argues that the social impact of total closure outweighs the health risks of keeping the central points of our social fabric open. There is also deep concern about the care of our most vulnerable children and how NHS workers with children of their own will be able to work should schools close.

Whilst I agree with the Prime Minister's stance it is also now having a huge impact on schools when it comes to ensuring the well-being of children and staff alike.

As teachers and school staff are forced to self-isolate, many schools may have to close, in any event, through a lack of staff. However, we also appreciate that we must do all we can to follow the government's advice and offer some support to the families and children in our care until the government announces its longer-term plans for schools.

School leaders across the country have risen to this challenge in the same way that you do in every crisis. Do all that you can today to maintain order and some sense of normality for the children in your school.

So what does this actually mean for Woodstone at this moment in time (10am on March 17<sup>th</sup>!)



- Whilst we endeavour to keep school open your child may experience different staff in their classroom, particularly if staff are self-isolating
- We are pleased to announce that both Miss Daley and Miss James are pregnant – however this also means that we are following Government guidance and have asked both teachers to work at home until there is an update on the advice regarding pregnancy
- Any events which involve parents/grandparents coming into school will be cancelled in line with national guidance given yesterday. This includes events such as Woodstone's Got Talent, Chocolate Bingo, Golden Book assemblies
- External events have also been cancelled e.g. cross country, swimming galas, football matches

We are also talking to the children about the situation (in a child friendly/age appropriate way) to reassure them and answer their questions.

Finally, we are receiving updates on a daily basis and should school have to close for any reason then it is vital we have your current email address and mobile number. Please let the office know as soon as possible if you have made any changes to either of those recently.

These are unprecedented times but it is important we all work together to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Yours sincerely



P. Mullins  
Headteacher