



Newsletter - January 2021

www.warmsworth.doncaster.sch.uk secretary@warmsworthschool.co.uk

01302 852200/854873

Happy New Year - what a start to 2021! This is certainly not the way we thought we would be starting a new year, with school open only for vulnerable children and those of critical workers, and the majority of our children learning from home remotely.

Thank you!

I am so proud of our school community and wish to thank everyone for their care and support for one another at these times. The positive emails and thank you notes and messages that are coming to school are greatly appreciated and welcomed!

Staff are reporting good engagement from children (and parents) both in school and through remote learning and they are keen to continue to develop this. We whole-heartedly understand that children learning remotely at home is not ideal and are aware of the stress and strains this has on families - many of us are parents ourselves and are also managing these issues at home too - but I just wanted to thank you for trying your best and supporting your children, and us collectively as a school.

Google Classroom

Most children at home are now accessing Google Classroom, the same as the children in school, and parents have commented to us about how useful the videos that teachers are making are to support the learning at home. These videos can be played and re-played as required to support understanding. Please try to ensure that your child(ren) complete all learning tasks set, as the learning is carefully planned and each learning activity is sequenced to build on from the next.

Teachers are also keen to develop more face to face contact with the children as they are missing teaching them all directly, so please look out for your scheduled Google Meets on the Google Classroom platform - we are trying very hard to ensure these do not clash with other year groups, as we are aware that devices may be being shared at home and do not want your children to miss these!

When accessing any learning or Google Meets, your child will need to log on with their own Google Classroom email, as provided by the school, as other google email addresses are unable to access the learning.

We will be uploading a Microsoft form to our school website next week, to gather your views of our remote learning provision - please complete it so we can ensure that everyone's voice is heard.

I am aware that some parents are experiencing technical issues and are requesting paper packs - if this is the case, please contact the school so this can be addressed, as we are concerned that children

accessing paper packs are not receiving the direct teaching through the recorded videos and missing out on the live sessions through the Google Meets.

Please remember as stated in our previous newsletter, if you need support with digital devices or data/Wi-Fi connection, please contact us as we may be able to help!

Please remember that you can contact us at school for any support you need for remote learning, via telephone, email and your child's own Google Classroom account.

In-school provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers

We are continuing to provide in school provision for identified children, but are concerned about the increased numbers on the school site, compared to the numbers on site in the spring and summer terms of 2020. This has also been raised as a concern by a number of parents through telephone and email conversations.

As per the government guidance, on page 25 of 'Restricting Attendance during the National Lockdown: Schools':

"Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can."

Most parents have tried to do this and are working around their shifts to limit the number of sessions their children need to access in school, and we are very appreciative of this, however we are concerned that the rising increase in demand means this is not being adhered to by all. If your child(ren) are able to stay at home, and are currently accessing in-school provision, please contact us to discuss this as we are keen to keep numbers as low as possible in the best interests of our children, staff and the parents who are essential critical key workers and need the in school provision as they have no other option.

The key position is; *The more children we have in a bubble, the greater the risk of a positive test arising in the bubble, which means the bubble has to close. This means that the in-school provision is not available to any child or parent in the bubble and as a result of the whole bubble needing to self-isolate for up to 10 days, often parents are unable to attend their critical worker roles.*

Since September 2020, we have had 10 positive cases in our school community, which have enforced the closure of 4 bubbles - the most recent being our year 5 bubble which has been closed for this week. Please remember that when bubbles have to self-isolate, children are not allowed to leave the house, even to accompany parents to bring other siblings to school.

Staff testing

Following government guidelines, all members of staff will have the opportunity to take Lateral Flow Tests for coronavirus, twice a week, from Monday 1st February 2021. We have been asked to do this to limit the spread of coronavirus in the community, as it should pick up any asymptomatic cases (currently estimated to be 1 in 3 people who are infected but do not have any symptoms).

I am telling you about this because if a test returns positive, then **bubbles will have to be closed** for 10 days or until the staff member gets a negative test from a laboratory (PCR) test. All members of the bubble will need to isolate. This could happen at very short notice - first thing in the morning - so it is important that any parents using our in-school provision have some sort of **contingency plan in place for**

provision in case this happens. Closed bubbles will continue to switch completely to remote learning, so please ensure you can access Google Classroom, if you haven't already.

Covid 19 Positive tests

If your child is learning in school or at home, please continue to report all positive cases to us at school via telephone or via secretary@warmsworthschool.co.uk, as we still need to report these to the Local Authority and Public Health for them to track trends of cases within areas, and alert us to any concerns within our school community.

If your child receives a positive test for Covid over a weekend, please email us on the secretary email address: secretary@warmsworthschool.co.uk informing us of your child's name, class, symptoms they are experiencing and when these symptoms started. This enables us to identify any close contacts, who may need to self-isolate, ahead of Monday morning.

Building work on site

The builders have arrived on site to build a new pathway for our Foundation Stage One pupils and parents to access our F1 provision without having to cross the Key Stage One playground. We are doing this for the safety of all, as we know it can be very busy at the middle of the day at Foundation one departure and arrival times. The site is clearly fenced off and children will not have access at all to the site.

At this time, please could I remind all parents / carers that if your child in in F1, F2, Y1 and Y2 your child must be accompanied to their classroom door by a responsible adult. If you have a child in Y3, Y4 ,Y5 or Y6 they may enter the site independently, but please ensure they are fully aware that they need to go straight to their classroom door at their allocated start time.

Diary dates

Please note that we have had to change many of the diary dates (as attached) and the copy on our school calendar, due to our current circumstances.

We have arranged for the school photographs to be taken at a later date in the summer term and have had to cancel our KS2 production for the time being, as we are not able to produce and perform this

Remember, that even if your child is accessing remote learning at home, we are always in school, so please contact us to access our support.

Please take care and keep safe,

Mrs R. Train

Headteacher

DIARY DATES

Fri	12 Feb	3:30pm	All Years	School Closes
Mon	22 Feb	8:50am	All Years	School Open
Fri	26 Feb	All Day	All Years	Multi Faith Day
Thur	4 Mar	All Day	All Years	World Book Day
Fri	12 Mar	All Day	All Years	Sports Relief
Tue	16 Mar	All Day	KS2	French Day
Fri	26 Mar	3:30pm	All Years	School Closes
Mon	12 Apr	8:50am	All Years	School Open
Mon-Tues	19-20 Apr	3:30pm-6:00pm	All Years	Parents Evening
Thur	22 Apr	All Day	All Years	Class Photographs
Mon	3 May	All Day	All Years	School Closes
Tue	4 May	8:50am	All Years	School Open
Throughout May			Year 2	SATS Assessments
Mon-Fri	10-14 May	All Day	Year 6	Assessments
Mon	24 May	TBC	F1AM	Sports Day
Mon	24 May	TBC	F1PM	Sports Day
Mon	24 May	TBC	F2	Sports Day
Tue	25 May	TBC	Yr 1, 2 & 3	Sports Day
Wed	26 May	TBC	Yr 4, 5 & 6	Sports Day
Thur	27 May	TBC	TBC	Reserve Sports Day
Fri	28 May	3:30pm	All Years	School Closes
Tue	8 June	8:50am	All Years	School Open
Tue	8 June	4:30pm		New F1 Parents Meeting
Wed	9 June	4:30pm		New F2 Parents Meeting
Tue	15 June	10:15am & 1:15pm		New F1 Parent & Child Meeting
Wed	16 June	10:15am & 1:15pm		New F1 Parent & Child Meeting
Fri	25 June	All Day	All Years	Multi Faith Day
Mon	28 June	2:45pm-3:30pm	KS2	Guitar Concert
Wed	30 June	2:45pm-3:30pm	KS2	Music Concert
Fri	9 July	2:30pm-3:30pm	All Years	Class Swap/Reports Out
Fri	16 July	3:30pm	All Years	School Closes