



17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

WPS Update

Good morning everyone.

I sincerely hope you are all keeping safe and well. We fully appreciate how challenging the current situation is for all our families and whilst some children (Reception, /Year1 and Year 6) have returned under the Phased Return, many have not including all other year groups remaining at home as directed by the Government. Critical Worker and Vulnerable children continue to have provision as advised previously.

Last week the Government announced that they were **not now expecting schools to welcome back all Primary aged pupils before the Summer break**. This news has required due consideration given the second element of this announcement which encourages schools that have the capacity to take in more pupils. It is anticipated that further guidance regarding the Summer break and Autumn term arrangements – DFE have not confirmed any decisions or further guidance at this time.

WPS in line with Government guidance has Risk Assessed the Phased Return for Primary aged children. The plans and arrangements that were established for this are under constant review. Bubbles of up to 15 children and associated staff commenced operation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and have been successfully operated now for two weeks. I would like to acknowledge and thank all parents and carers who have worked with us and followed the guidance. WPS has followed the guidance and will continue to do so to ensure those children, staff and adults accessing the school provision, do so safely. The viability of our existing Bubbles remain subject to staff availability and all those associated with the Bubble remaining well.

**WPS does not have any further or additional Staff/Learning Space to open up more Bubbles for Year 2,3,4,5.** I know this will be disappointing for many of you who had hoped a return for your child may have been possible before the Summer break. Jonathan Lewis – Director of Children's Services has set out these issues in a letter which has been attached for your reference.

Important Reminder:

If your child is attending School currently and/or a family member develops COVID-19 symptoms - **the School MUST be made aware of this at the earliest possible time and your co-operation regarding this is imperative.** Symptoms and advice from NHS England:

### Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms

The symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are usually mild, but some people can become very unwell.

#### Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

### Urgent advice: Use the 111 online coronavirus service if you have any of:

- high temperature
- new, continuous cough
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

111 will tell you what to do and help you get a test if you need one.

**Use the 111 online coronavirus service**

Call 111 if you cannot get help online. Do not go to places like a GP surgery, hospital or pharmacy.

### Babies and children

Call 111 if you're worried about a baby or child under 5.

If your child seems very unwell, is getting worse or you think there's something seriously wrong, call 999.

Do not delay getting help if you're worried. Trust your instincts.

Get more advice about [coronavirus in children](#).

### **Staying at home if you have symptoms (self-isolation)**

If your symptoms are mild you must not to leave your home. This is called self-isolation.

- Anyone with symptoms must self-isolate for 7 days from when their symptoms started.
- Anyone you live with (or anyone in your support bubble) who does not have symptoms must self-isolate for 14 days from when the first person started having symptoms

We are currently reviewing our Home Learning offer and always strive to ensure this is meaningful. The news above requires us to further consider how we can make this accessible. Currently the Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize complement the WPS offer. We appreciate that access to a device is an issue, the BBC provision is available through the TV broadcast network and Red Button function, [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) and iPlayer.

The DFE yesterday announced that families entitled to a Free School Meal, currently via Edenred vouchers, will now receive a Summer break voucher. I know this will be good news and provide some relief to all of the families involved. The School Office will make contact regarding how this will be processed and we remain hopeful that the current arrangements will allow for this.

The Teaching Staff are currently completing Annual School Reports for all children. We are following the DFE Guidance regarding this given the COVID-19 impact on Primary School assessment and reporting to Parents and Carers. All Primary assessments – EYFS Baseline/Y1 and Y2 Phonics/Year 4 Mathematical Tables Assessment/KS1 and KS2 National Assessments were cancelled. The School Closure announcement means that School is only able to report on the Teacher assessments that had been completed up to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The requirement to report on attendance has also changed and DFE are yet to finalise their guidance - however we are likely to report attendance up to the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 which is up to the start of the School Closure period. We are aiming to send reports home on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, in the same way the Spring Parent/Carer – Teacher consultation Report was shared, via ParentPay email. Class Teachers will be making contact with you to provide an opportunity to discuss this report.

At this time of the academic year we would normally be enjoying a range of transition activities that we have planned for our children. The current COVID-19 situation requires us to work in a different way and the knock on of this means face to face transition is not possible. Our Y6 pupils would normally spend a day at their Secondary School, our new Reception Pupils would enjoy several play sessions in school and all year groups moving up at WPS would spend a day with their new Class Teacher. Secondary Schools will be sharing their Transition offer which we anticipate will enable all pupils to access whether they are in a Bubble at School or remaining at home.

We are currently engaged in transition planning and class arrangements for next year. I am sure you can appreciate, we do not have any clarity regarding what September will look like or indeed for the Autumn term. This is something the profession is pushing very hard for – I will share any update regarding this as soon as we know. I am working with Mrs Simmons and the Senior Leadership Team on all of these matters given that I will be leaving WPS as Headteacher at the end of this term. We recognise that any form of return in the Autumn will require very careful consideration. Class arrangements for 2020-2021 will be shared with you, however it may be that School is required to maintain a Phased Return after the Summer break. We are very mindful of this and again consideration is being given to this scenario.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support at this time.

I do wish you all a safe and happy week ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Wilding  
Headteacher