

What is Going On at Warstones!

16.9.2020

I do hope everyone is finding the entrance and exit of school at the start and end of days a lot smoother and less stressful. It is certainly less crowded and so reducing the risk.

However, as we all know, last Monday (14th) the government has asked for no mixing of households and groups no bigger than 6. Birmingham and Sandwell have moved into stronger lockdown measures. Wolverhampton are recommending us all to follow suit as our numbers are rising in the city and we are also likely to be issued with tighter restrictions very soon. Please do not come on site if you are displaying any symptoms or have been told you should be isolating. If we are to try and keep all children in as long as we can, we need to really keep on top of any transmission opportunities. The aspects we still have an issue with are:

- **Only one parent walks around school** with EY and KS1 children and avoid any extra older siblings
- **Y2,3 and 4—if you do not have children in other time slots, please do not arrive before 8.45am.** We still have a lot of parents arriving early and queuing which then causes crowding as the time gets nearer to quarter to.
- Families of EY children who have other siblings can drop off the older children at the KS2 gate at the same time as bringing the EY child.
- Please stay on the school side of the pavement if you are queuing so as to leave the pavement clear for pedestrians walking.
- **Please remain socially distanced while waiting outside school or on the paths and playgrounds.** Outside school we have placed white dots to mark safe distances. Please do not come and wait by the gates when you arrive and then squeeze into gaps where people have queue at a safe distance. **You need to join the back of the queue if you arrive earlier than your time slot.**
- There are 2m markings around the EY/KS1 footpath and hatching on the path. **Please do not enter the hatched area until the person in front has left it.**
- **It is VITAL** that parents do not stand around on that footpath **but must keep walking round.**
- **Please keep your children next to you while waiting or moving round school.** A lot of children are running off and breaking into other family bubbles.
- Can parents be mindful to **pick up children on time especially EY parents at lunchtime.** Staff only have between 20-30 mins to have lunch and clean down equipment before the next session and if you are late picking up they cant prepare or eat.
- **KS2—Please do not wait around after dropping off your child to see them walk up the path.** Once through the gate there are staff around to ensure they safely get where they need to go. We must avoid people standing around on the pavement when children have gone in.

Meet the Teacher/ Parents Evenings

Sadly, we are not able to hold our usual meet the teacher sessions after school. This is a sadness to us all as it is normally such a good opportunity to put names to faces and build the rapport needed between families and staff. However, if you are not sure you could recognise who your child's teacher is, do go on to the webpage and check out the transition videos we put up before the Summer to find out a bit more about life in their new year group and who is working with them.

Likewise we had hoped we would be able to run parents evenings but with the stronger lockdowns across the country, this is not possible. We will send out a short report as we did in the Spring Term and we will arrange for phonecalls where necessary.



A reminder that we can not accept cash payments in the office now and all payments need to be made online using the app or requesting a bar code you can take to the post office to pay there. All the instructions about downloading and using the payment app can be found on the home page of the school website.

Please also be aware that After School Club fees need to be paid in advance. We cannot provide a place the following week if there are debts outstanding. Thank you.

Please can we remind everyone that we only have water in water bottles, not juice or squash. Thank you.

Lunchtimes

Fingers crossed we shall have hot dinners starting next week! It would appear that we are one of the first schools in Wolverhampton to do this. Years 1—5 will be having dinners as normal in the school halls and will be able to chose from the counter what they would like.

But we still need to have Reception and Year 6 eat in the classrooms to fit everyone's dinners in at a reasonable time while still in their bubbles. Year 6 will therefore chose a meal from the deli menu in the morning when they register. The two Reception classes will alternate having hot dinners one week and grab bags the following week. (Any allergies that we have been informed about will be catered for as will vegetarians). RMR will start with hot meals next week.

Remember—Reception and KS1 are entitled to free school dinners! Do consider taking up this offer. You can also check if you are entitled to free dinners in KS2 by passing your National Insurance number to the office. With all the changes to people's work situations, you may find you can receive this or a cheaper flexible charge. This also helps the school budget as we receive additional funding for supporting children in their education according to how many free school dinners are taken up.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the parents survey. It is producing really helpful information for us as we plan support and interventions for the children. If you have not had a chance to do it yet, please do click on the link sent out last week and share your concerns.

We hope the building work will start at the weekend. It will mean we move Teeny Weenies and Nursery down to the Family at the Front room for the duration of the build. Please arrive at the times you would normally come and you will be directed to the entrance to use.



Update on the Autumn Cold!

A number of children and staff are suffering from this nasty cold virus but so far, no one who has been able to get a test has come back positive. Also, when ringing the Covid line for advice, many are being told they have no need to isolate or test as it is unlikely the virus with the symptoms described, blocked sinuses, phlegmy cough, slight temperature and/or stomach trouble. If they are unwell, please let us know and if you would normally keep them off, please do so till they feel well enough to return.

However, if your child shows symptoms of any of the following: a **new continuous dry cough**, a **high temperature**, a loss / change of smell or taste; then the most recent guidance should be followed:

- Inform school and self isolate for **10 days immediately**
- **Household members of the symptomatic person should also self isolate immediately for 14 days (including siblings)**
- Arrange for a Covid test by phoning the national 119 number or our local Wolverhampton number 01902 290244.
- Inform school of the outcome of the test.

If the test is negative, please send a screenshot or show the Office team the text confirming this to be able to bring your child back to school.

If you think your child does have symptoms of the virus as described and you keep them off school because of this, then you must either have a test and await the outcome or stay away from school for 10 days before your child can return.

They can not return the next day or in a couple of days if you think they no longer are ill. If they have had virus symptoms it should be treated as such.