

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Mr David Wood



15th January 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

Staff are continuing to work hard to ensure that quality educational provision is available for pupils both in school and at home.

As you may be aware the Government have continued during the last week to release further guidance in relation to the opening of schools and 'vulnerable and critical worker children.' We ask that you consider the following in order to help our community to control the spread of the virus and contribute to the national effort against this terrible viral disease.

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

Examples of how this might be relevant include:

- Critical workers who have working patterns that mean they are not working during school time on any given day.
- Critical workers where another parent is not working, or has the flexibility to support children at home (please note that home-learning is designed to be around 3 to 4 hours per day for primary children and can be completed at any time).

Whilst we really appreciate so many parents' belief and confidence in the ability of our school staff to look after your children during this national lockdown, this has meant that we have more than 50%+ attendance. Therefore, in line with government guidance, where there is scope for children to be at home with some level of supervision/support for home-learning, please can you contact us at office@waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk and we will discuss matters with you.

We understand that a lockdown situation is a challenge for us all, but it is necessary to combat the spread of Covid and to keep our community safe. We fully appreciate that we all have different family situations.

Through our improved approach to remote learning, with the increased use of videos and providing feedback to pupils on work completed, we believe the offer we are providing for your child is a significant step forward from last year's lockdown. Teachers are planning and teaching remotely in line with the National Curriculum and ensuring that wherever possible lessons mirror the learning in school.

Our teachers have received lots of positive comments from parents over the past week, for which we thank you. We will continue to adapt and refine our online offering over the coming weeks to ensure we provide the best remote learning provisions we can.

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I would just like to add that the teachers and teaching assistants are remarkable. Their workload has increased hugely, and they are rising to the challenge. However, they are doing two jobs, teaching in the classroom and teaching via remote learning with only the same number of hours in the day. We fully appreciate that many of you will be in a similar position with your jobs and doing your absolute best to support your children's learning at home, for which we would like to thank you. Your support has never been more valued by all the staff at Waterhouses and I hope we can continue to work together in the best interests of all the children.

As a school we have made the decision to provide recorded lessons/activities that allows for parents and children to access when convenient for them, replaying videos/teacher input as many times as necessary. Also, with internet download speeds as they are for many of you, live streaming can be problematic which would obviously disrupt access to live lessons and impact on pupils' understanding. Please continue to liaise with your child's class teacher through Class Dojo and they will do their best to get back to you as soon as they possibly can.

We hope that everyone understands that we have to ask these questions and that we are not seeking to take any places away, but for the ongoing safety of our pupils, staff and the wider community as a whole, we feel that it is important we raise this with you.

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'W'.

David Wood
Headteacher