



Sent via parentmail 22.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that this message finds you all as safe as possible in this current time of COVID, we are now half way through this half-term and I would like to update you with where we are at as a school.

A number of new children and their families have joined Woodside in the primary and secondary departments. We extend a special welcome to you and are looking forward to getting to know the children well and to working with you as your child makes their journey through the school.

None of the current situation has been straightforward or easy for families, for children or for the Woodside team. However, it seems that the whole community is pulling together magnificently in spite of the daily challenges.

If you are a parent working at home, we know how difficult that can be. Whether your child is attending on site or learning from home, we appreciate all that you are doing to support your child and their education. Your number one job as a parent is to keep your children safe and well. Parents and carers are not expected to be teachers! You are not expected to be experts in all the subjects, knowledge and skills that your children learn. As one of our teachers has commented, *'Our parents and carers have been an invaluable source of support and encouragement for both the teachers and their children. Not only are they juggling difficulties themselves, they are also assisting us in providing an education to their children'*.

We will continue to do all that we can to support your child and you, so please continue to make us aware of any difficulties you are facing through the Google classroom, by telephone or email; [office@bwf.education](mailto:office@bwf.education). Our remote learning offer has been published on the school website. There is no one-size-fits-all at Woodside so click here for an explanation of the range of learning that is on offer; <https://www.woodside.bexley.sch.uk/learning-from-home>.

We are doing our best to meet the many demands and needs in the most appropriate way for each individual. We are factoring in your preferences as far as is possible but are not yet able to accommodate all children whose parents wish them to attend on site. All of our teachers are currently working from home in order to plan, deliver recorded lessons, make direct contact, mark work and feedback to your child whether they are in school or at home.

From the parent surveys you have completed, we are aware that there are a number of families who would prefer their child to learn in school. Currently, it is a delicate balancing act between

- Ensuring our current offer to critical workers and pupils who we have felt are most vulnerable continues so that they can attend as they currently are between now and the end of term
- Ensuring high quality remote learning through Google Classroom for all children and supported by teachers and support staff for children on site and at home
- Running the rapid testing programme
- Regular review whether and when it is possible to begin to increase numbers on site.



We know from children, parents and teachers through comments on Google classroom and via telephone calls, that the remote learning which is being used both in school and at home is working for the majority of pupils.

Please remember that our staff are working incredibly hard to personalise learning and ensure that each child can engage with their learning. These are not normal times for anyone and teaching and learning are not the same. I have attached the Parent, Carer and Visitor code of conduct and communication policy and ask that you please read and keep this for reference (please see this document under 'policies' area of website). This reinforces our commitment to working in partnership with you based on trust and mutual respect. We welcome communication from you and if you have any concerns we will always listen and seek to address them.

We are longing to welcome our whole community back at the earliest opportunity.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs K Freame**  
Head of School