



WOOKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
And Little Acorns Playgroup
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Dear Parents,

I am writing to you on Sunday afternoon, having spent a large portion of the weekend preparing for a situation that I was hoping we would not have to deal with at Wookey School. Although I have sent out a standard letter that all schools have been given to use in these circumstances I felt it was appropriate to also send out something more personal to our families.

I must start by thanking all the staff for their tireless work since we returned to full opening in September. They have done everything possible to reduce the chances of having to send classes home to quarantine. Those of you who have read our detailed risk assessment will know exactly what steps we have been taking, but sadly we are now in the same position as many other Somerset schools and three out of our four classes will be resuming home learning for the next 2 weeks.

Every member of staff has gone above and beyond, as they always do, and they must be applauded for managing to keep the school fully open for so long. We all really appreciate the positive comments we have received over the last 24 hours and it is clear that our school community understands the hard work that the teachers have put in over the past few weeks to make our school as safe as possible.

Sadly though, we will not be seeing many of our children in person until Monday December 14th. That does not mean that school will not be continuing though, as we will be resuming the home learning for Oak, Willow and Chestnut Classes that we ran so successfully during the first lockdown. This home learning offer has been recognised by Somerset County Council as being outstanding, which means I can confidently say that with good home school partnership we can ensure that the impact of this temporary situation will be minimised for the children.

I know that the teachers in our three home learning classes have been working exceptionally hard over this weekend in order to make sure we can hit the ground running tomorrow, so I expect to see all the children logging on to Seesaw first thing in the morning for the start of school. The children will find that



their teachers will be sat at their desks ready to interact with them and support them through the next two weeks and we have high expectations of all them.

It is absolutely vital that they all engage in the learning that will be set for them and it is important to let you know that the teachers are planning activities that the children can complete independently so please don't feel under pressure to be there 100% of the time whilst the children are learning. The teachers know what their children are capable of, so please trust me when I say that they can do it! What I do ask though is that you help reinforce expectations that work set by the teachers is completed on time and to a high standard.

As I did back in the first lockdown I will also be setting daily walking bus type activities for the children, although they will obviously be garden or house based as they won't be able to leave the house for two weeks. I am hopeful that this will help remind the children of the importance of keeping active in these tricky times. These activities will count towards their next walking bus badges.

To support you in ensuring the children have access to home learning on Seesaw, we have a limited number of devices that we are happy to loan out to those families who do not have sufficient access within the home. Please let me know by sending a response to this letter on Seesaw if your child would benefit from access to one of our devices and we will do our best to get one to you. We will be contacting families who do not engage in the home learning we have set over the next 2 weeks so it is really important that those families with a genuine need contact us as soon as possible.

I started this letter by thanking the staff for their efforts and I think it is important I conclude by thanking you, our parents, for playing such a big part in the success of the school. The next 2 weeks are going to be challenging for all of us, and I totally appreciate the pressure you will be under if your child is quarantining at home, but I know that we have a tremendously strong school community and that we can get through this together.

Kind regards

Andrew Marsh
Headteacher

