



Windermere Primary School

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3rd January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful break from your usual routines. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Wednesday 5th January**.

I want to reassure you that Windermere is well-placed to provide a safe environment for face-to-face learning; every classroom has its own toilet facilities and outside door, our classrooms are spacious and our routines are well-practised.

We will continue to maintain our class double-bubbles, which has worked well over the past eighteen months in restricting pupil to pupil transmission within school.

Pupils do not need to wear masks in school, although staff will wear masks in certain circumstances. The emotional and mental well-being of the children is very important to us and part of this is to operate as close to 'normal' as possible from the children's point of view, whilst taking every effort to reduce transmission within school. For this reason, we will be limiting adult visitors in school and asking parents to continue wearing masks at collection and drop-off times, whilst also maintaining a social distance from other adults.

You can help us by letting us know if you or another member of your household has tested positive for COVID-19. This may mean that, in line with Hertfordshire Council advice, we ask you to keep your child at home for a few days whilst you wait for test results or that we ask you to test your child each day before sending them into school. In this way we can reduce both child-to-child transmission and child-to-staff transmission, which unfortunately might force us to close classes if we are unable to staff classes adequately. Similarly, we will contact you for you to test your child if they seem unwell. However inconvenient this may be at the time, it is nothing compared to having to close a class if an unwell child stays at school and passes the virus on.

As ever, we will endeavour to carry on as normal, but parents should be aware that staff absences may mean that we are not able to do everything quite as we would like to and behind the scenes everyone may be doing quite a bit extra too. For example, for the first few days of term, the school office will be short-staffed, so Mrs Lemmon and I will only be able to deal with very urgent matters, please email rather than come into the office and be patient if we don't get back to you immediately.

We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Raftery
Headteacher

