



Windsor Hill Primary School

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Principal: Miss I McKane

Vice-Principal: Mr. P. Morrow

School Website: [www.windsorhillps.co.uk](http://www.windsorhillps.co.uk)

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents

### **School Closure Update**

As of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January we have been informed that school will be closed for face to face teaching provisionally until after February half term – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. School will however be operational to provide 'Supervised learning' as required by DENI.

At the outset we wish to record our thanks to all parents for their support and assistance at this exceptional time. The announcement of school closures has again raised a degree of uncertainty for us all, not least for you as it relates once again to the care and education of your children over the next number of weeks.

We want to assure you that your child's education continues to be a high priority for us and we will do all we can to provide meaningful and engaging learning experiences for our pupils primarily through the Seesaw App supplemented by links on the class pages on the school website. Over the last months we have all learned a lot re: online learning and hope that this transition will be as smooth as we can make it for everyone. At the same time know that not everyone may be able to log on during the normal school day to complete activities – please establish a routine which suits you and do what you can. Teachers will be posting work daily and children can return work through Seesaw for marking and feedback.

Please do your best to ensure that the children are regularly completing and returning work. This will be monitored and if you are having any technical issues please let us know and we will do our best to help.

Teachers can be contacted via the Seesaw app or via their school email address which they have already shared.

### **Parents' Role**

In using any materials provided it will be important to remember that working at home will be very different from your child's normal school routine, so the following may be of some help in helping you to organise their day:

Short, focused activities will often be the most successful.

There is no need to fill the 5 or 6 hours of a normal school day with written or academic work - the school day is full of variety, so build in time for breaks, physical activity, relaxation, quiet time and practical activities.

A daily routine will help to set expectations and it may be possible to design this with your child so they understand the importance of continued work.

Go off grid for part of the time: play board games, cook up a storm, build with Lego and blocks, garden, look up the family photo albums, clean your room, draw a self-portrait, build, make and create with junk art, experiment, stretch, sing and READ!

Also: Praise, praise, praise - this is the single most important thing you can do to encourage your child with their work.

### **Children's Mental Health and progress**

Through the Paths Programme in school a lot of work has been done on developing children's self-esteem, health and wellbeing. We are all social creatures and the routine and normality of a school day has been once again abruptly taken from our children, they will understandably find this strange and for some this will be stressful. Please try to shield your children from this worry and anxiety. What they need right now is to feel comforted and loved. That might mean that the planned schedule does not work – don't stress about this – build it up gradually if needed.

We all want our children to achieve their full potential, please don't worry about them regressing. Every child's schooling has been disrupted, we will support the children to make up this time. When we are back in the classroom, we will re-evaluate and move on at their own level and rate.

This advice was given in March and is worth repeating: *Remember that some things have not been cancelled: The outside is still open (if chillier than March!); Smiles are still allowed; Fresh air is still free; Conversation builds good family relationships; Imaginations can still run riot; and hope springs eternal.*

### **Supervised Learning in school**

School will be open for children of keyworkers and other groups from 9:00 – 3:00pm (or 2:00pm for younger children if it is more convenient) daily. We do however need to plan for this in advance and therefore ask parents to book their children in. A text will be sent weekly and parents who need to avail of this should email Miss McKane by 2:00pm each Friday stating the days when supervision is needed the following week.

Your continued support, particularly at this time, is very much appreciated. Please do not sit with questions, feel free to contact us should you wish to discuss any aspects of our remote learning further.

Yours faithfully,

I. McKane  
Principal

P. Morrow  
Vice Principal