

Friday 08 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Remote learning

We felt you might appreciate us sharing our rationale for our approach to remote learning with you.

We have carefully considered our approach to remote learning with all Woodside families in mind and tried to find a balance. Since last March, we've explored the various approaches other schools have taken to remote learning, looked at educational research, information from professional educational bodies and, most importantly, listened to feedback from our children and parents.

This is an overview of our considerations when deciding on our remote learning approach:

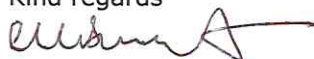
1. All families are different. The majority of feedback from children & their parents is that being able to take a flexible approach to their children's remote learning works for them. Many families, especially those with a range of ages at home, are not able to have their children sitting down to timed lessons. This has come through very strongly in feedback to us and parents have said how grateful they are that our approach is flexible.
2. Access to devices. We know that many of our families are sharing devices and they would be unable to manage timetabled, live lessons at home. This is a particular issue for those families with more than one child at home. Our remote learning provides videos and resources to support children but is not overly reliant on access to devices.
3. Effectiveness of live teaching. Rather than teachers standing at the front of the class and teaching by instruction, effective teaching & learning is fluid, interactive and adapted constantly. At primary level, live lessons cannot and do not replicate interactive, well-differentiated teaching and learning.
4. Safeguarding concerns. As an experienced designated lead for safeguarding, I know that the potential risks to staff and children are complex and concerning. We know that other schools are teaching live lessons but we will not be doing this at Woodside. This is the stance of many schools nationally, including secondary schools.
5. Staff wellbeing. I cannot praise Woodside staff enough for their hard work and commitment to our children since the first lockdown in March. At every step, staff have put the children's needs above their personal fears and anxieties. Teachers are working hard to provide good quality remote learning whilst still teaching in school. If staffing numbers drop because of illness or self-isolation, our capacity to respond to remote learning becomes decreased.

I hope this gives you a sense of why we are operating remote learning as we are.

The key message to you all is we are here to help.

Current staffing levels mean a dedicated year group teacher will be available to support throughout each school day via the year group email. If you need any help at all, please don't hesitate to email or give the school a call and a teacher will get back to you at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards



Claire Bennett
Headteacher