



Willerby Carr Lane Primary School

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25/9/20

Dear Parents/ Carers

Review of Week 3

Once again, I just wanted to keep you informed during these uncertain times.

We have had a reduction in the number of children being kept at home with symptoms of coronavirus. We currently have just 4 children self-isolating due to either a high temperature or a persistent cough, as defined by the NHS. I think much of this reduction is due to a better understanding all round of the specific criteria for self-isolation as opposed to children who have a sore throat, a cough that is not continuous as described above, or a sniffly/ runny nose. Funnily enough, we did have one child who seemed to rapidly develop a cough immediately prior to a test, but thankfully it 'magically' disappeared when the test was postponed! A bit of TLC medicine seemed to do the trick!

We are acutely aware of events in our nearby community, with both primary and secondary schools sending individual year group bubbles home to self-isolate for 14 days following a confirmed case. We are doing everything we can to minimise the chance of infections in school with segregated bubble operation, increased cleaning and good hand hygiene. The children have adapted to seeing staff wearing masks when they are outside of their classroom, brilliantly. As the prevalence of coronavirus in the community increases, it is critically important that we all, parents and staff and children, continue to observe covid-safe practices when outside of school. This is the best way we can reduce the risks of having a confirmed case in school and the resulting disruption.

If year group bubbles do have to self-isolate, we will revert to Google Classrooms with the year group's staff at home to run them. We are currently drawing up plans for exactly how this will work, learning from our experience last summer and your feedback. We will publish a clear offer to you with what you can expect from us and what we would like children to do. We will specify what times teachers will be on-line to support children and when they are able to mark work. There will be time set aside for staff to make phone calls during the week to parents. We will also incorporate a daily ½ hour Google Meet session (similar to Zoom but run from within Google Classrooms) so that teachers can recap on the learning each day and chat to the children face to face.

Our current 'Tier One' offer is for individual children having to self-isolate with symptoms. In these circumstances we aim to have work on Google Classroom for the day following notification to the school. Support staff will ring during the week to see how things are going, to try to resolve any difficulties and to help provide motivation and human contact for our pupils. Unfortunately, as I'm sure you will understand, it is not possible for the teachers to offer direct support to pupils undertaking remote learning at home, given that they are teaching at school. They will try to mark and respond to work at the end of the day.

You can imagine that setting work for children at home as well as school, increases the work load on teachers who will have to upload an array of resources each day as well as do their normal day job at school. As such, we only make this offer to load resources onto a Google Classroom, when one or more pupils in the year group are off with coronavirus symptoms (as opposed to colds etc).

We realise there are a myriad of difficulties in engaging children with remote learning. Each family faces their own unique challenges. Nonetheless, it is important that children sent home, engage as best as possible with the work offered. In that way they can slot back into lessons, once they are allowed, with minimum disruption and minimum gaps in their learning. Without this, it will become impossible for teachers to try to help fill an endless array of emerging gaps for different children.

This week we have run several Year Group Welcome Meetings for parents on Zoom for which there has been a large uptake. Thank you for joining our zoom meetings and for your support; we hope you found them useful. Next week we will be hosting the remaining Welcome meetings for Year 5, Year 1 and EYFS.

All class teachers are now using Class Dojo as a way of passing on messages. Given that teachers can't stand on the doorstep and chat, this app is proving really useful. Please remember not to use it to pass on important and time-critical messages, such as changes to pick up arrangements – teachers are unlikely to look at Dojo during the day because they are teaching. All important messages must still be passed through to the office.

We will be holding Harvest Festival assemblies in individual classes on Monday 5th October. As usual we would ask for donations to be brought in on that day. Gifts brought in will be sent to the Open Doors charity which helps the poor in their neighbourhood. They are attached to the Princess Avenue Methodist Church in Hull. Donations of dried food goods including sugar, rice, pasta, breakfast cereal, instant coffee, tea bags, biscuits, tinned goods (no soup please) are all welcome.

Many thanks for your great support. Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Smith' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Sean Smith
Headteacher