

Dear Westwood Family, we hope you are all very well and staying safe!

I wanted to start by saying a huge 'well done' to the children in Nursery through to Year 2, and the amazing way they have returned!! You are all superstars!

Also, as you will know, our fabulous Junior children are returning on Monday 15th March and we are so excited to have you all back very soon. To prepare for their return, we have produced an updated 'Return to School' handbook, which will be in use from Monday 15th March for the whole school. Please read this carefully. The handbook and the risk assessments on our website are prepared to make sure we keep ourselves safe and keep our school open.

Thank you to our parents for their patience and full support with our procedures and reading the risk assessments, and return to school handbook carefully so we can all keep ourselves safe and open! I know that the majority of you are very appreciative and grateful for all the measures we have put into action to ensure we can reopen safely. **Safety is our top priority and all of our measures are clear in our latest risk assessment and return to school handbook, which will help you to prepare accordingly before your child will return. If you haven't read these important documents, please do so. They are available on the website:**

http://www.westwoodprimary.co.uk/serve_file/1017286 and https://secure.schoolspider.co.uk/uploads/260/news/1017290_news_file.pdf

A few things to highlight: a couple of changes and reminders for you all!

Reminders

- ♥ **Adults - please wear your masks on site or your badge / lanyard if you are exempt.** We have Welsh Government lanyards free of charge, and these can be used whilst on the school site and in the community when shopping etc. Please ask us for a lanyard and wear this on site if you are not wearing a mask, as we will ask you to wait outside the school gate if you are unable to comply with this polite request. Flintshire County Council have made it clear that we must all work together to keep schools open and adhere to health & safety. The risk assessment and handbook clearly state we have the capacity to use the powers given to us by Flintshire and nobody should compromise our safety.
- ♥ **Please use the car parks or park away from the school site.** The Zig Zags outside school should not be used to drop off nor park, even if you have a blue badge. This is for your child's safety.
- ♥ **Keep your 2-meter distance and after drop-off and pick up, leave the school site swiftly.** Please keep the entrances and exits, and pavements clear. **We need to keep Covid safe.**
- ♥ **Please be prompt at drop off and pick up.** If you are late, this compromises safety of our staff and bubbles.
- ♥ **One adult on site to collect their child/children.**
- ♥ **Our children are wearing own clothes at the moment, so uniform isn't necessary. We will ask you to bring your child in uniform after the Easter holidays on Monday 12th April.**

Changes from Monday 15th March

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will reopen as normal FROM Monday 15th March 2021. We will be fully operational with breakfast club from Nursery to Year 6 from Monday 15th March. Breakfast club starts at 8am and the child care element finishes at 9am. Doors close at 8.40am. Breakfast club from 8am to 8.30am is £2 for the 1st child and £1.50 for further sibling places. Breakfast club from 8.30am to 9am is free. All children are to come in through the small Padeswood Road gate and it will be a 'meet and greet' system only. The breakfast club will need to be organised in Contact groups / Bubbles within school.

Due to this fact, all breakfast club places for the time being MUST be booked in advance to allow safe organisation of bubbles and adequate staffing.

To book your child's place in breakfast club, please log on to the schoolcomms app, where you will find both the 8am to 8:30am and the 8:30am to 9:00am clubs on there. These will be available to book up to the end of each term. New term dates will be released towards the end of the current term. The new link will open next Monday, ready for the Monday 15th March return.

If you require the paid element of the breakfast club, this will need to be paid for through School Comms. If you need help or assistance, please email the office. Thank you in advance with your support with this arrangement.

Free School Meals

Direct payments will **stop on Friday 12th March.** From Monday 15th March, if your child is in receipt of free school meals, then this will be provided for in school. The direct payments will recommence over the Easter holidays and will cease again on the Monday 12th April.

Devices for home learning and home learning packs

Many of our children have been issued with devices for their home learning. We will need to collect these devices back in, so they can be used at school. If you have a device at home and you are in the Foundation Phase – Nursery to Year 2, please can this be returned from Monday 8th March, at drop off in the morning please.

If you have a device at home and you are in Key stage 2 – Years 3 to 6, please return your device from Monday 15th March, again at drop off in the morning please.

Can you also return any of the paper-based work your child has completed during home learning? We would like to acknowledge all the fantastic work the children have completed and give them the recognition for their hard work and efforts during lockdown learning at home. Send this in when they bring in their reading books. Thank you 😊

Welcome back to Miss Bennett! Plus, a Mrs Farrer and Miss Davies news update!

As you will know, Miss Bennett gave birth to a baby girl in the summer holidays and now is returning to Westwood after her maternity leave. **From Monday 1st March, Miss Bennett will be sharing the responsibilities of Class 8 with Mrs Farrer**, who you will also know is pregnant. Due to Covid 19, Mrs Farrer must leave her face to face teaching role in school on 8th March. However, she is committed to remain at Westwood, working with Class 8 and their parents until her baby is born in June. They will both be points of contact for parents until June 1st. Miss Bennett will also be joined by Mrs Mattar in Class 8, to ensure the children are further supported too. **Miss Bennett will remain with Class 8 until the end of the academic year. Miss Davies will remain with her current Class 6 / Year 3 until the end of the academic year also.**

Mrs Fresa and Miss Vickers

Mrs Fresa, as Class 3 parents know, is poorly at present and will be absent from Westwood for a long period of time. We all wish Mrs Fresa a full recovery. Until the time when Mrs Fresa can return, **Miss Vickers will take responsibility of Class 3**, and will work closely with the Reception team. I know that all of the parents and children in 3 will give Miss Vickers their full support.

Thank you

Our amazing P.T.F.A. have been busy raising community awareness for our Easter fundraising. In the post this week, we received a lovely surprise! A bag full of beautifully knitted Easter items and chocolates for our school to use to raise money. Thank you to Mrs Aird for reaching out to local community groups, and Karen Jones and Lynn for the wonderful donation! If you can help with the P.T.F.A. fundraising efforts, contact the office.

Thank you to all our children for their fantastic efforts in school and at home! We have had amazing Eisteddfod entries, which will be shared next week in a special Welsh assembly! This week we also had a fabulous class-based World Book Day. The Westwood Padlet of Lockdown learning is growing with fabulous entries. Take a look on <https://padlet.com/brownl99/yc3aof4gl470cyzb>

Thank you also to all the parents who email, tweet, tag us on Instagram and use messenger to connect with us! Remember, we have a weekly assembly where we give shout outs to our children and share what you are involved in or what you have tagged us in. You can find these on Instagram and Twitter or on our Youtube channel. **Check out this week's full assembly here: <https://youtu.be/M8GkThZhiZo> and on Instagram@ ww_Buckley there is a shorter version!**

Thank you again for your continued support during this week and indeed throughout the year. Your messages of thanks and kind words have been uplifting. We know just how grateful you are to have your school open and we want to remain this way. By working together and following the rules, we will all get there! Please stay safe!

Take care our Westwood Family!

Mrs Williams & Team Westwood 😊