

Half Term Update – Friday 19th February 2021

Dear Westwood Family, I hope you are well and have been able to rest over the half term.

As you will know, our **Foundation Phase pupils can return to school on Tuesday 23rd February**. All details around the return of our pupils in Nursery to Year 2 have been shared in previous emails before the half term break. I urge **all Foundation Phase parents to read all of the information shared**. Thank you.

Welsh Government Update

Today many of you may have seen the updates by the First Minister's briefing at lunchtime today. Please also see this video link below from Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education that went live on her twitter channel this morning **which references the possibility of more learners returning to school from 15th March if conditions allow**.

https://twitter.com/wgmin_education/status/1362658425503576066

For our Westwood family, this **could signal the return of our Key stage 2 pupils from Monday 15th March, if the rates of Covid 19 continue to fall**. More information if this is to happen will be shared, when we have more details. However, as we are still not all allowed to return, it means that **home learning will also continue until this time for key stage 2**. Our amazing staff will continue to provide all the support you will need with this, including the extra pastoral and wellbeing check in's on Zoom and on Seesaw throughout the week.

Wellbeing

Although the announcement today I am sure is very welcome news for the parents and carers of our Key Stage 2 children as there is a little light at the end of the tunnel, what we cannot ignore is the impact of this lockdown as it has been hard on many of you, your family and our children; indeed, **on all of our Westwood Family as a whole**. I have had many conversations with our parents and carers around looking after yourselves, your wellbeing and your mental health at this time. Many parents turn to us as they know we will help, or they come to us as they do not know who else to turn to for support beyond school with wellbeing and mental health. We will do all we can to support your child and yourselves and will continue to our very best for our Westwood Family. **Please contact us via the office if you need help or support or just a chat. Also check out our wellbeing links on the website** <http://www.westwoodprimary.co.uk/page/covid-19-wellbeing-resources/67453>

To help us to help you further, I have attached another letter for you to look at **if you feel** you may need additional help to what our school can provide during the lockdown, with regards to **mental health and wellbeing for yourselves and your child**. There are many avenues of self-care and external support for mental health and wellbeing out there. See the attachment to this letter; many of these links on here have been provided by Flintshire County Council to share with you.

Don't forget the EPEC course 'Being a parent' begins after half term. The course is very flexible, and they do appreciate your children will be around at home if you do the course. They will even do evenings to fit around interested parents too! See BAP poster attached or give **Emma a call on 07584 533111** or email emma.blacklock@flintshire.gov.uk or contact school for further information.

Finally, I must remind you all of this: **your efforts have been truly incredible to support your children with home learning and wellbeing over lockdown! Please do not put pressure on yourselves. Please always be kind to yourselves! All of our efforts to stay safe and look after ourselves is paying off and it won't be too long until we are all back together again.**

Stay safe, Westwood Family!