



# Woodthorpe Junior and Infant School

## Newsletter - Lock down Edition



**20<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

RRSA article for May is **17: 'right to reliable information from a variety of sources.'** This week's article is 15: 'freedom of association.'

School value for this half term is **Respect.**

### Dear Parents/carers,

This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter during school's partial closure. It has certainly been a different first half to our summer term this year. We hope you are all keeping safe and well at home and also making the most of the lovely weather we have had this week. Don't forget to share what you have been getting up to with any photos of your activities. If you give permission for photographs to be shared on Twitter just let us know.

There is *new family challenge* on your child's class blog page. Please share your creations with us:

<https://2014woodthorpe.wordpress.com/2020/05/20/recreate-a-book-cover-challenge->



There has been long awaited drainage repair works taking place at school over the last couple of weeks. This should mean that we will be much better prepared for the heavy rain should it come again.

You will now be aware, from yesterday's letter, how we plan to open school to more pupils. There will be more details to follow once the necessary arrangements have been made. As a school we want to ensure that our new reception children, reception and year 6 pupils have the best transition possible to their next phase in their education, especially under the current, challenging circumstances. We will be working closely with our nursery and secondary colleagues to work on the best ways to achieve this.

We had a few requests from parents about friendship groups when children are assigned to their family group. Unfortunately we cannot arrange this for all pupils returning to school but will do our

best to ensure that children return to school happily and enjoy their time back in school. Just as we have done for our new reception children, class teachers will be making a short virtual tour to say hello and show the learning spaces and classrooms. You can share this with your child as it will look a little different compared to before partial closure. This should hopefully help to ease their anxiety and ensure return to school is as smooth as possible for all our children.

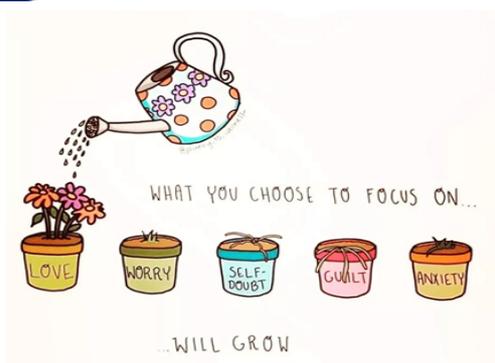
Please note that from 8<sup>th</sup> June year 6 pupils will return to school, 15<sup>th</sup> June for reception and from 22<sup>nd</sup> June for year 1. Therefore the existing child care provision for key worker children will change over to education in school for these year groups from these dates. I wish I could say more about other year groups returning, but as yet, schools have not received any government guidance on this. We will let you know as soon as we know how and when this would be done safely.

**Clarification re: closing 1pm Friday** – this will commence from when each year group (year 6, reception and year 1) return to school and is only a temporary measure until school can reopen fully. Therefore Friday early closing will *not effect key worker provision* for all other year groups (year 2,3,4 and 5) which will continue to run Monday to Friday 9-3pm.

Just a reminder that school will be open over May half term (Tuesday-Friday) for our *key worker pupils only*. Please use our booking system as normal. Email [enquiry@woodthorpe-school.com](mailto:enquiry@woodthorpe-school.com) for a form if you haven't already accessed this provision in school. There will be no work set for pupils over half term.

Until we meet again, take good care of yourselves and each other. We will continue to keep you fully informed at each stage of Woodthorpe's wider opening. As always, we will continue to make decisions in the best interests of our children, their families and our staff.

Enjoy this bank holiday weekend and **Eid Mubarak** to our families.



Ms McGrath

### #WoodthorpeHomeSchool

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being so receptive and proactive with our class blog sites. Staff have worked very hard in ensuring that daily content is uploaded to the sites every working day for the children to access. It has been lovely to see how well the school community has interacted with these over the last few months. I hope you continue to benefit from these moving forward, don't forget to use the hashtag #WoodthorpeHomeSchool to share your experiences.

### Schoolzine Parental Engagement App

A reminder that our communication is now made through our Schoolzine app. If you haven't downloaded the app yet, please search for 'SZ App' in the Apple/Android/ other stores. For those families that already have the app, please ensure that you've subscribed to the correct year group(s) to avoid missing out on important updates.

### Physical Activity

I hope that Joe Wicks, amongst others, has inspired you to be as physically active as possible over recent weeks. Your teachers have been setting you a variety of tasks through the blog sites, as well as you hopefully also managing to spend some quality time with your families in the recent good weather. Look out for a new 'virtual challenge' next week, with a launch date of Monday 1st June. The Birmingham School Games Challenges are primarily aimed at parents and carers to help keep young people physically active at home.

Check out the blog sites for updates early next week.

### How lockdown is making us see the online world in a new light

The UK-wide lockdown has had a considerable impact on us all – but when the dust has settled, one thing that almost certainly will have changed for the better is our relationship with the online world.

Technology has enabled us to carry on doing a lot of our day-to-day tasks even if we're confined to our homes. Perhaps now is the time for a new conversation about the devices in our homes and to reassess their worth. [https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-lockdown-making-us-see-online-world-new-light?utm\\_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=6966b0fe75-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_05\\_21\\_12\\_59&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_1ee27d9000-6966b0fe75-179270977](https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-lockdown-making-us-see-online-world-new-light?utm_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm_campaign=6966b0fe75-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_05_21_12_59&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1ee27d9000-6966b0fe75-179270977)

Mr Trevor

A big thank you to the class teachers for posting ideas and everyone who has focused on the act of kindness as part of mental health awareness week.

I'd also like to share the link for a lovely video Miss Ali posted on the Year 5 blog.

<https://youtu.be/h3ztnR4P4Ow>

If anyone feels that they need further support at the moment, as well as the links below, I understand from some of our parents that Young Minds are really helpful, for both parents and children.

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Helpline 0808 802 5544

Keep safe, take care, and remember you are all doing a wonderful job!

Ms Carrington

### Notices and updates

#### FSM vouchers

We are sending out eCodes to parents today so they can order their eGift Cards via [www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk](http://www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk). If any





# Woodthorpe Junior and Infant School

## Newsletter - Lock down Edition



issues are experienced with accessing these, please contact Mrs Hicken via [enquiry@woodthorpe-school.com](mailto:enquiry@woodthorpe-school.com).

### Safeguarding

Any relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children must remain accurate. Please let a DSL know of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that we should be aware of before your child returns;

### The Department for Education

**coronavirus helpline** is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

There is updated guidance on helping primary school aged children learn at home to include information on the wider opening of educational settings.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The **e-Bug** project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be used in various settings including schools and at home:

<https://e-bug.eu/>

**Help and support:** There are the following local charities who offer bereavement support in the Birmingham area:

### Beyond the Horizon

Website: [www.beyondthehorizon.org.uk/](http://www.beyondthehorizon.org.uk/)  
Beauchamp Road, Birmingham, B13 0NS  
Tel: 0121 444 5454

During Covid19 Lockdown contact:

07906 621 345

or email [admin@beyondthehorizon.org.uk](mailto:admin@beyondthehorizon.org.uk)

Supports children, young people and families from the Birmingham area who

have been affected by loss, bereavement, divorce or separation.

### Edward's Trust

3 Vicarage Road, Edgbaston, B15 3ES

Tel: 0121 454 1705

Email: [admin@edwardstrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@edwardstrust.org.uk)

Offers counselling (1 to 1, as a couple, or as a family) support groups, and wellbeing therapies and social events. Offers support to adults, children and young people who have had someone important to them die, or have a parent, significant carer, brother, sister, other family member or friend who is terminally ill.

### Malachi

Website: [www.malachi.org.uk/](http://www.malachi.org.uk/)

Tel: 0121 441 4556

Email: [enquires@malachi.org.uk](mailto:enquires@malachi.org.uk)

Supports parents/carers, young people and professionals through a range of counselling based therapeutic interventions to create lasting change.