



# Executive Headteacher Newsletter

Proud to  
Belong

January 2021

Dear All

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your patience, support and kind words since term started last week. It has certainly been an incredibly busy start to term and I know that all staff have really appreciated your support whilst we work through the restrictions linked to the new lockdown.

There are a number of updates we wanted to make sure everyone had, whether your children are remote learning or accessing provision in school. We still need to stay connected so please take the time to read the updates in this newsletter.

Andrew Wilson  
Executive Headteacher

## **STAFFING UPDATE**

Mrs Collins from the Infant office and Mrs Brooks from the Junior office both moved to new jobs at the end of last term. Instead of recruiting to each post, we took the opportunity to strengthen the links across the federation by appointing an admin officer to work across both schools. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Lizzie Clarke to the team. Mrs Gullen (Infants) and Mrs Webb (Juniors) are still working at each site and Lizzie will split her time between the two schools.



Lizzie Clarke



Olivia Harrison

We also said goodbye to Mrs Hatton at the end of last term after many years of teaching at the Juniors and welcomed Olivia Harrison to the year 5 team. Mrs Harrison is already known to some of you as she has taught in year 3 earlier this academic year.

## **EXCITING BABY NEWS**

It is with great excitement that we can share the news that Miss Keeping, our Infant Head of School, and Mrs Nelson, one of our Year 5 Teachers are both expecting their first child.

They are both still working at the moment but with the pandemic there are different health and safety rules for pregnant staff working in schools.

We will update you on news of maternity cover arrangements next term.



## **JUNIOR BUILDING UPDATE**

The work to rectify the problems with water ingress at the Juniors is continuing and moving ahead well.

We anticipate the building will be handed back to us for 18<sup>th</sup> January.

All key worker and vulnerable provision is currently running from the Infant School and we will send a full buildings update on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

## **FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS**

Those that are eligible for free school meals will be receiving food vouchers during the lockdown. If your circumstances change during the lockdown and you feel you might be eligible for FSMs, please have a look at the information in this link [https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20032/schools\\_and\\_education/408/free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20032/schools_and_education/408/free_school_meals)

## LOCKDOWN KEY WORKER PROVISION

You might have seen information in the media over the weekend about how schools are struggling more this time because of the number of people requiring school spaces as part of the key worker and vulnerable child provision. Just to put this into context from a Wroughton perspective, **we currently have more than 135 children attending in school provision across the federation. This is 25% of our pupils.** When schools closed in the first lockdown, we had 15 children from across the federation accessing in school provision (this was 3% of the pupils on roll at that time).

As you can see from these numbers, we are under a huge amount of strain to maintain high quality remote learning whilst also providing full days of in school teaching for children of key workers and those identified as being vulnerable. On Friday evening, the Government sent out clarification following some changes to the key worker provision as a result of all schools facing high numbers of children attending. The government have now said that: **'Children whose parent or carer is a critical worker can go to school if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.'** Department of Education

We will continue to work with the Department for Education, Swindon Borough Council and the education Trade Unions to ensure the safety of staff and children during the pandemic. This is a changing situation and all schools are urgently seeking advice from the Government on the maximum number of children that schools should allow in.

## REMOTE LEARNING

Thank you for all the positive feedback that has been given regarding our current remote learning provision. We will continue to monitor this closely and make any adjustments that we feel are necessary.

Again, there has been a lot reported in the media over the last week about what schools should offer as remote learning and you might have heard Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, talking about how Ofsted will monitor the remote learning provided.

We are incredibly proud of how hard all staff and children are working and we know this can't happen without your support and encouragement. We have changed our remote learning package a lot since the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown and welcome any feedback that Ofsted would like to give.

I do think it's important to understand that, whilst we will always strive to go beyond the expectations set by the Government, there are no expectations on schools to provide live teaching. That said, we believe that live content with teachers is important and staff have worked extremely hard to find a way to teach in school, offer live sessions and live drop ins as well as regular email and telephone support.

Ofsted have published a guide for school leaders to evaluate what's working well with remote learning across the country. In it they say that: **'Some think that a live lesson is the 'gold standard' of remote education. This isn't necessarily the case.'**

There is a link to a DfE blog below if you want to read more about what schools are being asked to provide:

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/08/what-should-remote-education-look-like-how-can-your-child-learn-remotely-if-you-dont-have-a-laptop-we-answer-your-remote-learning-questions/>

## ACCESS TO DEVICES

We know that many families are struggling with access to devices and I wanted to assure you that we are doing everything we can to increase the number of devices being given out.

The Government have given both of our schools 5 laptops each and we are not able to apply for any more until 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Last week, several members of the Wroughton community very kindly donated laptops that they no longer need and we are working as quickly as possible to get these up and running for families to use.

If you do have any unused devices or are able to spread the word, please do encourage people to contact the school office so we can redistribute any 2<sup>nd</sup> hand devices.

We will continue to distribute devices over the coming weeks.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL TRIP

If your child is signed up to attend the residential trip this year, please hold off making any further payments. If you receive automated reminders, please ignore these. We will send you an update once we know more.

## WROUGHTON FRIENDS

A huge THANK YOU needs to be given to everyone involved in the fundraising efforts on the build up to Christmas.

Because of your generosity with raffle donations and from buying tickets, the Wroughton Friends Team were able to raise £1,140.

**Thank you to everyone that bought a ticket, donated items and who gave up their time to make the hampers look so amazing.**

## BBC HOMELEARNING

The BBC have updated their daily home learning resources. To find out more follow this link:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

## INFANT SCHOOL GROUNDS

We are delighted to let you know that the school pond and wildlife area continues to undergo a bit of a makeover. This week the pond is being given a new lease of life with a new liner being fitted. We will also be fencing off a separate area just in front of the wildlife garden for children to grow fruit and vegetables when they return after lockdown.

You will have noticed that an area outside year 1 was fenced off at October half term. This is going to be a new area for year 1 to take their learning outside. The next phase is to get a safety floor put down on half and set up the other half with a mud kitchen.

The school carpark and unused mobile building next to the hall at the Infants was identified over a year ago by the Council as an area needing remedial works. It is with great pleasure that we can tell you that demolition of the old nursery mobile building will begin on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Once this has been removed, the Council will then fix the collapsed drain on the entrance to the carpark and resurface the areas of tarmac causing a hazard.

This demolition and resurfacing work is long overdue and is expected to take up to 1 month to complete but it will make a huge difference in our efforts to develop the outside areas at the Infant School.

## EASY FUNDRAISING

Don't forget that even during the lockdown you can help raise funds for both schools by using the easy fundraising app. So far, you have raised £21.26 for the Juniors and £46.55 for the Infants. This is amazing as all you do is use the easy fundraising app when buying from many online retailers like Amazon and Argos.

**If you're not already registered, please visit our 'easyfundraising' page below. There is a separate link for each school. If you have children at both schools, please choose one to raise money for:**

### Wroughton Infants

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wroughtoninfant/>

### Wroughton Juniors

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wroughtonjuniorschool>

The easyfundraising App will help you remember to use easyfundraising so the school you support never misses out on a donation when you shop online – whether that's on your laptop or mobile. Please see the attached flyer for more

