



AUTISM  
ACCREDITATION



# WOOLGROVE SCHOOL

## Special Needs Academy

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Headteacher

Mrs Lisa Hall



2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well in these challenging times. The Spring term officially ends tomorrow on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and this is the first time that I have ever had to write an end of term newsletter under such circumstances. As you are aware the school has remained open for our most vulnerable children and for those whose parents are key workers. The school is operating on a skeleton staff with the minimum amount of staff on site at any one time while all other staff are working from home. This is to enable us to adhere to the Government's policy of social distancing and to enable as many of us as possible to remain at home and to keep ourselves safe.

### Government Advice

Stay at home.

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have the symptoms.

### Shielding Letters

The Government have issued further information on the higher risk groups and have begun issuing shielding letters. If you have received one of these letters for either your child or someone in your immediate household with whom you live please advise the school office as soon as possible.

Please see the Government website for advice on those high risk categories:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

### **Free School Meals (FSM)**

If your child usually receives Free School Meals and has been in school for the period 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April then they will have been getting their meal as usual. For FSM children who have been at home, for either some or all of these past two weeks, we have sent out Sainsbury's vouchers worth £2.60 per day off school (maximum of £26 for 10 days) to your home address and hopefully you will have received these by now. If you have not received them by tomorrow, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, please call John in the office to let him know. We have sent the vouchers by track and sign delivery to ensure they were sent securely.

Yesterday we received notification from the Department of Education (DfE) about a voucher system for FSM pupils from next term. Parents/carers of FSM children will be receiving information from us about this shortly. We have also been informed by the DfE that some parents have received an email stating the following: *'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'*.

We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately.

### **Home Learning**

Before the lockdown was introduced home learning packs were sent out for all children. Over the past two weeks you will also have been receiving emails from the school with daily activities for you and your child to complete at home. Please note that you are not expected to do all the tasks in one go as there were lots of ideas on them! We will not be sending out home learning activities over the two week Easter break but I would suggest that you look at the home learning section of the website ([www.woolgrove.herts.sch.uk](http://www.woolgrove.herts.sch.uk)) where all the daily activities sent out so far have been posted. You could carry out some new activities that you haven't had time to start yet or redo ones you've already attempted to consolidate the learning. You will also see that Richard (or Mr P as everyone calls him) has been extremely busy filming more videos which are also on the website – Hollywood watch out! You can watch him read a story (Story time with Mr P) or join him for a PE activity (Let's Move). More of these videos will be uploaded after Easter. All the staff have loved seeing the videos and photos that you have been sending us of your children working at home so please do keep sending them in.

### **Next Term**

At this present time it is unclear what will be happening after the Easter Holidays. I will be in touch soon once the Government guidelines have been updated and we have a clearer idea on the situation and what the summer term will look like. Please note that our Inset Day, which was originally planned for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, has now been cancelled so the school will be open that day to our high priority children.

I do hope you and your families stay well during this period. We do appreciate that this situation will be causing stress and confusion for both you and your children as well as uncertainty about how long it will last. We are here to help so if you need support with anything or have any queries please email or phone the office and we will get back to you as soon as we can. It does feel very strange not having the children and staff all here together in school and we do miss you. However the most important thing is that everyone follows the Government's rules and keeps themselves safe and well.

Kind regards,

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

**Lisa Hall**  
**Head Teacher**