



WOOLGROVE SCHOOL

Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy

NEWSLETTER



23rd October 2020

Half Term

As the result of a lot of hard work and planning by staff, we were well prepared for all the changes in working practices at the start of the new school year. There is no doubt however that this has been a really challenging period for the staff and the children. Despite that, and in true Woolgrove tradition, everyone has pulled together and the children and staff have adapted brilliantly to their new bubbles and all the associated changes. We have been making the most of our wonderful outside space whilst the weather allows and Mr P has been running a morning workout for each bubble to get the children ready for the day ahead. Amazingly we are already a sixth of the way through the academic year and I know that however long it may last, the Woolgrove family are ready to deal with the continued challenges the current situation throws up. Thank you all for your support and patience and I hope you have an opportunity to enjoy the half term break.

North Herts Disability Sports Association

Each Friday during this half term we have been enjoying a visit from the North Herts Disability Sports Association biking team. The children from Cube, Cone, Sphere and Pyramid classes have been receiving coaching from the excellent staff on bike riding skills and have been able to make use of our fabulous outdoor space to use the bikes provided. The children have all really looked forward to their sessions and we hope to continue with them and to give the opportunity to children from other classes too. It would be great if the children get the opportunity over half term to show you their new found skills!



Free School Meals (FSM)

One of the many consequences of the pandemic is the change in the financial circumstances of many families. If your situation has changed and you are in receipt of benefits and you have yet to explore the possibility of you being eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), please contact the school office and the staff can help you. There is also information available on the Home page of our school website at: <https://woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/>.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Parent / carer consultation evening appointments are now available to be booked via Parent Mail. There will be no face to face meetings and all consultations will be either virtual (via Microsoft Teams), or by phone. Your child's teacher will contact you

Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richard Pritchard
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at the appointment time via the method you selected when contacted regarding your child's EHCP Review. Prior to the appointment the class teacher will provide you with examples of your child's work for you to look at. Please contact staff in the school office if you have any questions.

Coronavirus Update

This has been a really difficult half term for everyone and our overriding priority at Woolgrove is to keep all of our children and staff as safe as possible. As the infection rate is increasing again we have to be extremely vigilant and do our best to prevent the spread of the disease at school. It is for this reason that we have a strict policy to ensure that any children displaying any of the published symptoms are asked to stay away from school and self isolate. This will be until they have a negative test result for Covid or until their isolation period is over. I do fully appreciate that this can cause difficulties for families but as I am sure you would expect us to, we are following the national government guidance in all our decisions.

The current guidance is that if your child or a family member displays any of the symptoms the person displaying the symptoms will need to apply to take a coronavirus test. The symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or your child displays any of the symptoms above, or if you have given your child Calpol to reduce their temperature **PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM INTO SCHOOL.** If your child displays any of the symptoms above whilst at school we will be contacting you and asking you to collect them immediately. If you are worried or unsure please contact the school and we will do our very best to advise you. The link below will provide detailed information around the Government's current self isolation protocols:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infectionrefer>

We do thank you all for your patience and support during a really difficult time.

On line safety



At Woolgrove school we take the safety of our pupils very seriously, including their safety while they access the internet. With alternative entertainment restricted at the moment many of our pupils will be spending time online during half term. Whilst there are many positives to doing this, there are also a number of potential safety concerns.

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To support you in keeping your child safe at home whilst they are online, here a few tips:

Four Steps to Being Safe online:

1. Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online and monitor their usage.
2. Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, eg privacy settings.
3. Use parental controls on your home internet to restrict access to inappropriate websites and limit screen time.
4. Understand how to use the parent control tools on devices such as games consoles, computers, tablets and phones.

You can find information and useful links and fact sheets on our school website:

<https://woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/about-us/e-safety/>

Friends of Woolgrove (FoW)

Thank you to those of you who completed the survey regarding proposed future fundraising events. I would like to thank the FoW for their commitment to the school and the great ideas they have been coming up with during a really difficult period for school fund raising. There are several events on the horizon (details to follow) and your support in raising much needed funds for school resources and equipment would be really appreciated.

INSET Days

There will be two INSET days after the half term break and the children will return to school on Wednesday 4th November.

I hope that you manage to enjoy some relaxation time with your child over the half term break and don't forget we get an extra hour's holiday as the clocks go back on Sunday morning! See you on 4th November.



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Hall'.

Mrs Lisa Hall,
Head Teacher

**Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
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2020 - 2021 TERM and INSET Dates

AUTUMN	Half Term	Monday 26th – Friday 30 th October 2020
	INSET day	Monday 2nd November 2020
	INSET day	Tuesday 3rd November 2020
	OCCASIONAL DAY (no pupils)	Friday 4th December 2020
	Term ends	Friday 18th December 2020
SPRING	INSET DAY	Monday 4th January 2021
	Pupils start	Tuesday 5th January 2021
	Half Term	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2021
	Term ends	Friday 26 th March 2021
SUMMER	Term starts	Monday 12th April 2021
	Half Term	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2021
	Term ends	Tuesday 20 th July 2021
	INSET DAY	Wednesday 21st July 2021

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