



# WOOLGROVE SCHOOL

Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy

## NEWSLETTER



3<sup>rd</sup> September July 2021

### Welcome Back!

Welcome

Where have the last few weeks gone?! I hope you have all managed to enjoy the summer and are looking forward, with your child, to the new school year. The children have settled back in really well and they will be well prepared for Monday when all the children will

be in for the first time. The staggered start has really given them a chance to re-familiarise themselves with school and meet their staff.

We are continuing to adhere to all the safety and hygiene recommendations in order to keep all the children and staff as safe as possible as we move forward. We very much understand that schools are hugely important within the community and we will strive to play our part in ensuring that we are open and providing education for all of the children for whom we care. With that comes the responsibility to keep everyone healthy and safe and rest assured that we will make the children's wellbeing the centre of all of our decision making.

### Update on COVID 19 regulations

As I am sure you are aware there have been significant changes to the ways the Government have decided positive cases of COVID 19 should now be handled and there are changes to the guidance which has been issued to schools. I thought I would take the opportunity to clarify the rules which the new government guidance sets out.

As per the previous guidance you must seek a PCR test if you have a positive lateral flow test or are displaying symptoms of COVID 19 (dry continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste or smell) and self-isolate until you receive the test result back. This remains in the current guidance.

The new guidance states that the only people who have received a positive COVID 19 test result should not be in school. It removes the need for certain close contacts to self-isolate and this is even if you are awaiting a test result as long as you are well enough to do so. This applies to both staff and children.

I appreciate this is such a change in the old processes and from how we were used to dealing with COVID 19 positive cases, but these are the new rules and guidance as set out by the Government.

**Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
**Richard Pritchard**  
**01462 622422**

In summary the new rules are:

**If a person (adult or child) tests positive on a PCR test:**

- This person must now self-isolate for 10 days
- When the person receives the positive result, they are asked to log on to NHS Track and Trace to complete a form which details who they have been in close contact with

A close contact is deemed:

- anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19
- anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:
  - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  - been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
  - been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)

A close contact of someone who has tested positive will receive a text from NHS Track and Trace which provides details of a system to log on to and answer questions to deem if you need to self-isolate. These questions include date of birth and your COVID 19 vaccine status. If you are aged under 18 years and 6 months or have been double vaccinated or are exempt from having the vaccine, then you should not be required to self-isolate and can return to school/work immediately.

NHS Track and Trace will recommend that a close contact might wish to have a PCR test carried out via the post or at a test centre. While awaiting this result children must return to school if they remain symptom free.

I do appreciate that there is a lot of information to take in and this is a different approach to what was in place before the summer holidays. If you have any queries about any of this, please do not hesitate to speak to Sarah in the office.

## **Communication**



We are very aware of the importance of communication between school and parents and carers. An efficient two-way system is vital for confidence that concerns are being listened to and addressed and that important information is being received. We use Parent Mail for the vast majority of our communications from school and payment items so please regularly check any emails or messages that you receive. Should you have any issues receiving information or payments please don't hesitate to contact the school office on the above number or via email at

[admin@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk). Alternatively for class related communication each class has their own email address following the format (class name)@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk.

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### **Curriculum**

Bearing in mind the disruption that all the children have suffered over recent months we will be focusing on settling them back into school and the associated routines for the first couple of weeks. Details of the specific topics for this term and curriculum details will be circulated very soon and will be available on the school website.

### **Clear labelling**

Please ensure that **all items** that your child brings into school are clearly marked with their name. This includes all clothing, lunch boxes, bags etc. Misplacing items can cause a great deal of upset for the children and can cause unnecessary expense in replacing lost property. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

### **Important dates**

This is traditionally a busy term with a number of events and activities. We are still working through specific dates and how events will run and we will be providing specific details in the coming days and weeks.

Have a lovely weekend. Apparently good weather is coming soon so fingers crossed!

Kind regards,



Lisa Hall  
Head Teacher

**Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
**Richard Pritchard**  
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# 2021 - 2022 TERM and INSET Dates

<b>AUTUMN</b>	<b>INSET</b>	Wednesday 1st September 2021
	<b>Phased Pupils start</b>	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021
	<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
	<b>INSET day</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021
	<b>OCCASIONAL DAY (no pupils)</b>	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
	<b>Term ends</b>	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
<b>SPRING</b>	<b>INSET</b>	Wednesday 5th January 2022
	<b>Pupils start</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
	<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
	<b>Term ends</b>	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022
<b>SUMMER</b>	<b>Pupils start</b>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April
	<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
	<b>INSET</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
	<b>Pupils start</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
	<b>Term ends</b>	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022
	<b>INSET day</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022

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