



~ Every Child Matters Every Day ~

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Head Teacher: Mrs Fiona Feeney

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Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, I do hope you have had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and that we all are able to see the New Year in safely and with the hope for a better time to come.

Today, the Government have announced new Tier restrictions and information for schools starting back next week. We are hearing instructions and guidance at exactly the same time as you. There has been no other information sent to school so this is the earliest I have been able to contact you with any update.

Thank you all for the efforts made last term to keep children safe returning to school. We only had to isolate children right at the end of term which was down to the efforts everyone was making to avoid any transmission of the virus through school which was remarkable.

However, over Christmas it has become very apparent that this new variant of the virus spreads much faster and transfers far more easily so we have to double up our efforts to contain it. At the moment, we believe that school will open to children again on **5th January as expected**. If this changes, we will let you know as soon as possible, definitely on the 4th January at the latest. It is clear we have to take stronger measures to stay safe. We will be revisiting all our risk assessments and revisiting these with staff during the INSET day on the 4th January. But we also need your help.

Please forgive me for once again, emphasising the same points below that I have made before, but we can still make great improvements in these areas. We must take every precaution at what is our most vulnerable times - the start and end of the school day.

With the new tier restrictions it is **VITAL that children arrive during their designated time slot AND NOT BEFORE** to avoid any queuing and grouping of people outside the school gates/doors. KS2 parents, please do not wait around to see your child walk up the path – we must ask you all to move on quickly so as not to be waiting in the way of the next group coming.

Only families with siblings in both 8.35am and 8.45am groups should be waiting at the gates and as before, we advise that you arrive as close to 8.45am as possible to avoid waiting long.

For children in EY or KS1, please ensure **only ONE parent/carer** walks round school and **masks should be worn**. Do not arrive early and wait at the classroom doors. **PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILDREN NEXT TO YOU AS YOU WALK AROUND SCHOOL AT THE START AND END OF THE DAY**. Children are running off and crossing into other family bubbles which is causing these families considerable distress as they try to stay safe themselves. It also does make it pointless us keeping them in bubbles all day if they mix as they come out of school.

Please do not stop to talk to teachers as the lines must keep moving, any messages should be written and left in the tray at the door or preferably e-mailed to the relevant e mail address (see below). Staff will be standing inside doors/inside the outside gates to maintain social distancing. This is the most vulnerable time for transmission as so many different households approach individual staff at this time so I will be asking staff to stay away from doors and gates, simply letting children in and out safely. I do hope you can support them with this and understand the need we have to keep staff safe if we are to keep school open.

Children must arrive during their 10 min time slot unless they are a sibling of an EY child. Due to the later start of our EY children, we have the facility for any older siblings to arrive at the same time as them and enter school through the KS2 hall.



They will not be marked as late. However we are having a number of children simply arriving late for their slot and entering through the hall which gives me concern for the numbers in the hall in the morning. Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives on time. If you have been unavoidably detained and are running late, please phone the school office so we can arrange for someone to let your child in through their normal door or the FaF (Families at the Front) door if appropriate. This does involve staff having to come out of bubbles to let them in which we are trying to avoid and it also reduces the teaching staffing in that bubble while someone comes to let them in. Please make every effort to avoid being late. If this becomes a regular occurrence, Mrs Gleeson (our Pupil and Family Worker) will be contacting you to review this and support where she can. Also, our LA Attendance Officer will be monitoring attendance and lateness as before.

Sadly, we still can not have parents in school and if this is vital it can only be with an appointments. Please ring or e mail the office/Key stage with any concerns or messages rather than call in if possible. No children should be entering through the office door.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that families do not cross bubbles. This is particularly evident at the end of the day as people leave together or families who wait outside the gates with others at the start and end of the day. Please help us keep your children safe by maintaining social distancing and avoiding mixing households at all times.

If things go to plan, by the Summer term we should be able to see some normality start to return – let us hope so. It will certainly be more likely if we stick to the rules for a bit longer. I do thank you for your support with all of this and especially want to thank the staff, on your behalf as well, for all their efforts going the extra mile to provide as normal a day at school as possible for the children while teaching them and keeping them safe. I am so proud and grateful to them all.

See you all next year!

With best wishes

Fiona Feeney

E mail addresses for any messages:

EY@warstonesprimary.co.uk KS1@warstonesprimary.co.uk KS2@warstonesprimary.co.uk DRB@warstonesprimary.co.uk
General enquiries: warstonesprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Don't forget – you can now receive a lateral flow test for the virus at the Civic Centre, so you can check if you have the virus and need to isolate, even if you do not show any symptoms.

What are the restrictions in tier four?

The restrictions are similar to the last national lockdown and include:

Residents should stay at home, unless they have a "reasonable excuse" such as work or education

All non-essential shops must close

Hairdressers and nail bars must close

Indoor entertainment venues must close

Gyms and indoor swimming pools, indoor sports courts and dance studios must close

You cannot meet other people indoors, unless you live with them or they are part of your support bubble

People should not leave tier four areas or travel abroad, except for limited reasons (including work and education)

Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies are only allowed in exceptional circumstances

"Clinically extremely vulnerable" people in tier four areas are advised to stay at home "as much as possible". The government says if they can't work from home, they shouldn't go to work.