

Fox Wood School

Woolston Learning Village, Holes Lane, Woolston
Warrington, WA1 4LS

01925 811534
FoxWood_School@warrington.gov.uk
www.foxwoodschool.org.uk



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you to thank you for answering the questions which I asked teachers to discuss with you this week regarding your views around the possibility of a phased expansion of our offer for pupils from 8th June, in line with Government guidance.

I appreciate this is a time of significant confusion and anxiety for all and the questions that I posed have led to many questions from you all in return. I cannot answer all of the questions just yet, but I wanted to ensure that you are clear that:

- SLT will be meeting on 2nd June to devise a way forward which offers the most safety and protection for all members of our school and college community as possible.
- On 3rd June we will be able to let parents know – if they have requested a place – what we are able to offer moving forwards and when from. This does NOT mean that all pupils will be able to start with us on 8th June, or that all pupils will be able to be in school five days a week – we need to manage this as safely and carefully as possible, and so this will be done in a phased manner and we will try and give you as much information as possible, so that you know exactly what we are offering and can plan accordingly.
- We will continue to offer 'Home Learning' for those pupils who are not going to attend school, and these parents will receive a weekly call from a member of school staff.
- As a Special School the Government guidance does not instruct us to prioritise certain year groups, and so the decisions that we make will be focused on other criteria which is more pertinent to our school community.
- We will NOT be able to adhere to Social Distancing – it would be dishonest of me to suggest otherwise – we will, of course, try our very best to support pupils in remaining as safe as possible and give them as much space as possible though.
- Pupils will be grouped with familiar pupils and staff where this is possible – however this may not be possible, and so we cannot guarantee it in the way in which some parents have requested.
- We will be working with Transport to try and identify the safest possible practice (under the circumstances) to transport children to and from school (where parents have requested this.)
- We anticipate that there will be no more than 5 pupils in any classroom and this may need to be less, depending on the pupil group, and the amount of staff required to support.
- We will be staggering breaks, and lunchtimes will be spent in class (where pupils will eat) or outside in staggered slots.

Headteacher: Miss Lucinda Duffy NPQH, BA.Ed QTS

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lianne Buchanan BA (Hons), QTS, MA SEN



- If we cannot meet the specific needs of a child, due to the availability of suitably trained staff, then we will be honest with you and see if we can work together to find a solution. However, our priority will always be your child's safety, and so if we can't safely meet their needs we will tell you that.
- Our newly designed Phoenix Phase Curriculum will be used to support all pupils – whether at home or at school – particularly to focus on their wellbeing, and to begin to reintroduce certain expectations/opportunities to develop greater independence and communication skills around certain tasks.

Finally, a very small number of parents have questioned why we are having Half Term next week – I know how difficult this time has been for all of our families, in so many ways, and I also know that so many of you have made it abundantly clear that you appreciate all that Fox Wood staff are doing, but I do need to remind everyone that our staff have worked non-stop for the past few months, have been incredibly creative and flexible in embracing a whole new way of working, supporting, educating and communicating – whilst also all having their own family commitments, anxieties and personal experiences throughout this terrible time. We are – in all honesty – exhausted. I say that not for sympathy, but purely to explain why I feel that it is vital that our staff take a proper break (from their 'work life' at least), rest and regroup before we face our next adventures together . . . whatever these may look like . . .

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lucinda Duffy', written in a cursive style.

Lucinda Duffy
Headteacher