

West Dartmoor Federation



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Dear Parents

As we have now been 'back' for nearly a week I thought I would write to you again to update you on how things are going.

Thank you for supporting the staggered start and finish times. It may seem a little extreme but especially with our entrances it is the best way to follow the government guidance and keep all our children as safe as we can.

We would be very grateful if you could keep to the times and protocols in place as we progress through the rest of the term it makes things a lot easier for the staff and it also keeps us safe. There are signs on the gate as reminders and the letter I sent out is available on the website which will also tell you the arrangements. Could we also remind you to make sure those things needed for the day are with your child first thing? We cannot accept items brought in later in the day and there is no access to reception unless an appointment has been made or there is an emergency.

Thank you for the many emails and positive comments we have received. Despite the 'new system' it is really fantastic to hear from so many of you that the children are coming out happy having had a positive experience during the day. Although we have such a small skeleton staff, I have to praise them all for stepping up at these times. The staff who are still isolating are also doing their bit getting the lessons ready for delivery both at home and also in school. The lessons may not be exactly what would be delivered in normal circumstances and we are concentrating on the children's mental health and well being to help them through these difficult times.

A surprise box arrived yesterday from Waitrose for the staff and we would like to thank the anonymous benefactor as the contents were much appreciated and enjoyed!!!

Can we also thank everyone for being considerate of our neighbours with regards to parking? There has been an increase in visitors to the area and we are very aware that there has been some people blissfully unaware there is a school at the bottom of the lane and perhaps travelling faster than they should. Please keep up your guard as you are waiting to bring the children in.

I have to inform you of another rather unfortunate rule around bringing food into school. There have been a few birthdays recently with parents very kindly offering to make cakes for the 'bubble' the birthday child is in. Very unfortunately we have to say no to this. Guidelines state that just in case the virus exists in a home and is transferred by the cakes then we cannot have them in school. That is also why we aren't

sending the usual things home. I for one am most disappointed as I am sure you are aware I like to share in the children's birthday goodies!!!

As we have got used to our new protocols, we are able to make one change small change. For Y4, Y5 and Y6, if the children want to bring in a single book which will need to be kept in school for the duration and therefore long enough to last them, then they can. Please make sure you are happy for the cover to be wiped with an antiseptic cloth when it comes in and it will be kept solely by the owner in their tray. We cannot extend this to all year groups yet as they tend to read shorter books which would be going back and forth and we have nowhere to keep that volume nor the number of wipes that would be needed!!!

Finally, I was asked whether we would be opening during the summer holiday and if the other year groups would be coming back. At the moment there are no plans to open during the holidays. The government seem quite clear on that. There is to be an announcement I believe today about other year groups. However, currently with the staff available, I cannot physically open to any more children. If the guidance changes we will obviously look again. However, any decision I make will always have the safety of our children firmly at the heart of the matter.

Kind regards



Executive Headteacher

West Dartmoor Federation
(Meavy & Lady Modifords)