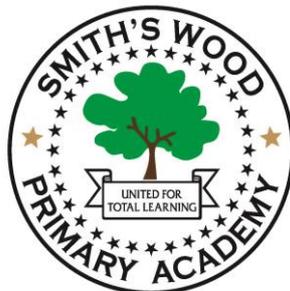


Principal
Miss. D. Givens
B.A.(Hons) Q.T.S



Burtens Way
Smith's Wood
Birmingham
B36 0SZ

Tel: 0121 779 8050

Dear Parents & Carers,

4th January 2021

I hope that you all have had a lovely break over Christmas and enjoyed spending time with your families during the festive period. I am aware that media coverage during the last week in particular, along with Government announcements, which have been in the news, may have raised some uncertainty for some parents about their child returning to school. The current National picture is uncertain and I am aware that there may be some anxieties amongst parents about their child returning for the Spring term. With this in mind, I wanted to write to inform you that, as per Government guidance on Primary schools remaining open, Smith's Wood Primary Academy will be reopening for all pupils in all year groups from tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January).

As you know, we had a hugely successful Autumn term here at Smith's Wood Primary, with no bubble needing to be closed; this meant that all pupils were able to receive 15 weeks of high quality teaching and the progress pupils made was outstanding. Any pupils, who did need to self-isolate last term, were also offered high quality learning from home, with interactive live lessons offered to them and I thank the parents for ensuring that their child engaged with this home learning when needed. The school has undertaken a robust risk assessment, and will continue to do so, in order to ensure that we are able to continue to provide your child with the same high quality provision which was offered to them during the Autumn term.

Whilst we acknowledge that the National situation is ever changing, and the Government is coming under pressure to close primary schools across the country in Tier 4 areas, until we are instructed to do otherwise, we will endeavor to continue with the successful measures, which were in place for the whole of the Autumn term, so that your child can continue to receive the education that they deserve. We will continue to monitor and implement any changes required, and will follow any further guidance which is issued. Smith's Wood Primary remains committed to remaining open for as long as is safe to do so.

To ensure that our school site continues to remain as safe as possible for all, and in continuous response to the rising transmission of cases, we would ask that parents review the bullet points below and adhere to these.

- If your child, or any member of the household is displaying any symptoms, please do not send your child to school, or come onto the school site. This also applies to anyone who has been in contact with someone who is waiting for a test result. Ring the school office to inform us and then keep us updated on any test results. Please also consider any siblings of pupils in other schools and if they are self-isolating, they should not be coming onto the school site.
- In line with Government guidance, attendance at school continues to be mandatory; please ensure that you bring your child to school each day, as you did during the Autumn term. The school cannot authorise absence for pupils where parents are choosing to keep them at home.
- Staggered drop off and pick up times will continue and breakfast club provision will be offered to all year groups, from 8.35am from tomorrow morning (as was the case during the Autumn term). Please make sure that once you have dropped your child off, or picked them up, that you leave the site and the surrounding areas promptly. Whilst waiting in any designated areas for drop off and pick up, please ensure that you maintain social distancing from other members of the community.
- As per guidance issued last term from the LA, and with the more transmissible spread of the virus, we would remind parents that it would be prudent to wear masks for drop off and pick

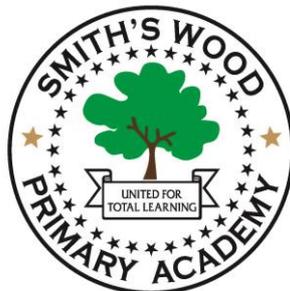
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Email: office@smithswoodpri.solihull.sch.uk www.smithswoodpri.solihull.sch.uk
Smith's Wood Primary Academy Limited – a private company limited by guarantee and an exempt Charity
Registered in England & Wales – Registration number 09065312
VAT number 189285257

Registered office is situated at Burtens Way, Smith's Wood, Birmingham, B36 0SZ



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up, especially where social distancing of 2m cannot always be maintained. This is particularly relevant at the front of the school, especially when waiting for drop off and pick up times.

- It is essential, that as we move into the new term, we minimise the number of visitors to the main school office. Please therefore ensure that your child has everything they need for the day- this includes: PE kit, snack, reading diaries etc. If you do need to enter the main reception, then please remember that only one person may be in there at a time, therefore we would ask that you wait patiently outside if someone is already being seen to.
- Due to the need to ensure there is increased ventilation within the rooms, and that pupils receive as much fresh air as possible, please ensure that your child comes to school with a jumper and a coat each day. This will make sure that they are prepared for their day of learning, both indoors and outdoors. As the weather is due to be cold for the next few weeks, please also ensure that your child has some black tracksuit bottoms, or leggings to wear when they are learning outdoors.
- In cases where a child is needing to self-isolate for 10 days, or a year group bubble needs to be closed, then the school will issue guidance on accessing remote learning for those identified pupils. We have a comprehensive package for remote learning available for pupils needing to self-isolate and will ensure this is available from the first day of self-isolation of needed.

Please work with us to continue to make the school site as safe as possible, by following all of the points above.

I am extremely proud of the fact that Smith's Wood Primary Academy went through the whole Autumn term, without having to close any bubbles and I am hopeful that we will start off the new term in the same positive way that we finished last term. However, I am acutely aware of the ever changing situation, but please rest assured that if we did need to close a bubble, we will continue to ensure that the education provided to pupils is of the highest quality we can provide and will communicate with you promptly.

Staff worked extremely hard in the Autumn term to ensure your pupils settled back into school positively and they are all prepared and excited to welcome your children back for the Spring term. All class teachers will be ready to deliver quality lessons to your pupils from tomorrow. We remain committed to ensuring your pupils make the progress in their learning, which they deserve to make.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school tomorrow and will work with you over the next term, to hopefully ensure it is as positive as the Autumn term. If you have any questions, relating to your child, please continue to email the school office, or call and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

D.M. Givens

Miss D Givens
Principal

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