



# Great Wilbraham CE (VC) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Richard Brown BEd (Hons) NPQH

Great Wilbraham C of E Primary School, Church Street, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge, CB21 5JQ, 01223 880408

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the school and Happy New Year! I hope you have had a safe Christmas and we look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

## Covid-19 update

I wanted to personally take this opportunity to discuss the importance of the measures we have in place at the school to keep everyone as safe as possible. We are now in Tier Four and the number of cases in the local area has increased a lot since I last sent a newsletter and I cannot express how rigorous we will be following our risk assessment procedures. I implore you to maintain 2m social distancing, wear masks and minimise your time on site when dropping off or picking up your children. If you need to communicate with the school please phone or email.

It must be said that although we would prefer the school to remain open to all pupils we also want to ensure the safety of all stakeholders in the school. Our staff have worked tirelessly to follow our procedures and we have been very fortunate thus far. However, you need to be aware that if there are staff shortages or positive cases, classes may have to close.

## Pick up times

Drop off times will remain the same but one measure we will take is to change the pick-up window as this has tended to be the time when families congregate. Unfortunately, we feel it is necessary to discourage this on our school site and in particular before and after school outside the school gates. Please maintain 2m distancing and try as hard as possible to adhere to the following suggested times to pick up your child. According to Tier Four guidelines we would like to remind you that children should only be picked up by a member of your household bubble or a registered childminder.

Fieldmice:	3.00-3.20
Year One:	3.05-3.20
Year Two:	3.10-3.20
Hedgehog:	3.10-3.20 (or earlier if sibling in another class)
Badger:	3.15-3.20 (or earlier if sibling in another class)

Please be aware that we are hoping our site management team will be in tomorrow to improve the field pathway so it is less slippery, but please do take care as you are crossing the field and in particular near the gate.

## Bags and equipment

We ask that children only bring in the minimum they need to have in school. If they do not need a bag then please leave them at home. This is also the case for older children who bring in mobile phones. They cannot be taken to the office to be looked after as we would normally do and instead they should be placed in a box in the classroom during the day – this would therefore be at their own risk

## Extra-curricular activities

Please note that we have taken the decision to cancel all music lessons and after school sporting activities. We hope to be able to offer them again soon.

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## Key worker provision

In the event of the school being closed to all but key worker and vulnerable children, it would be very helpful to know whether you would actually need the provision or if you will be able to facilitate remote education at home. If you think you qualify and will definitely need your child(ren) to be catered for, please check within the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Then please complete the online form to register your need:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ccgP5acqQ0WPiZbXP2WD8rL33N7\\_eJhCpEJAK9ThiVxUN01KOEtGUE5PTzZIVVpGOFQzUjhOM0E3Si4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ccgP5acqQ0WPiZbXP2WD8rL33N7_eJhCpEJAK9ThiVxUN01KOEtGUE5PTzZIVVpGOFQzUjhOM0E3Si4u)

For five weeks in April/May last year, all children were at home until the wider opening in June when the rates were much lower. Knowing the information in advance helps us plan in case of the event of a whole school closure, as staff themselves will have to organise their own key worker provision for their families.

## Staffing

We took the decision to fund staffing levels to ensure that there is minimal cross over. However, this could be subject to change dependent upon the circumstances and potential positive Covid-19 cases. Your child therefore may be taught by a different member of staff or a supply teacher; we were very fortunate last term that this was not necessary.

I am asking staff to ensure their families are safe and consequently they may be required to drop off and pick up their own children. Your child should not be affected but you need to be aware that there may only be one member of staff at the beginning or end of the day.

## Ventilation in classrooms

Just to reiterate that we are following Government and County advice to ventilate the classrooms as much as possible. We would like all children to ensure they have brought in layers of clothing as ventilation is key to reducing contamination.

## Temperature checks

Before the end of term, we installed a wall mounted digital thermometer in every classroom. Your child will have their forehead temperature checked upon entering the classroom and should there be an issue, they will be isolated with a member of staff and you will be contacted immediately to pick your child up.

## Reporting COVID19 cases or tests

Thank you for contacting admin@ email regarding any Covid-19 cases over the holidays. Should you or your child need to self-isolate or have positive tests then please do keep us informed; it really helps us make decisions for the safety of the whole school.

## Using Teams

Online homework will be used across the school and children in Years 1-6 will be using elements of Teams for homework. Please contact admin@ if there are any issues logging on.

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## Our school needs you!

We are taking every possible measure to keep our site as Covid-19 secure as we can. Staff have been working hard to ensure they keep themselves and your children as safe as possible so we can maintain the school opening. But we need your help and support. Please keep your time at school at a minimum and do not socialise. Please wear face coverings on site. I would also politely ask that you consider how you can help keep the school open with the choices made outside of school hours and adhere to the Tier Four regulations.

## Lastly

I hope you had a safe Christmas and I do hope we can continue to work together to provide a safe environment for your children to flourish in 2021.

Richard Brown

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