



4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year to you all! As we start the spring term, you will be very aware of the ongoing debate as to whether schools should re-open after the Christmas break.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure parents that we have assessed the situation and implemented additional precautions, including restricting Woodpeckers to Key Worker children, closing staffrooms and ensuring that staff wear masks outside of their designated classroom bubble. Our updated Risk Assessment is available on the school website.

We currently have sufficient staff so **WILL** be open as normal from Tuesday 5th January 2021. Drop off and collection arrangements will continue as before the Christmas break. We are keeping additional visitors to the school site to an absolute minimum, so please only come on to the school site if it is vital to do so. Face masks must be worn when dropping off/collecting children and when entering the school site.

As the situation is extremely fluid and there is the possibility that the government may at some point decide that primary schools will close to all but Key Worker children, I would like to take the opportunity of updating our 'Key Worker' list to assist forward planning. Please could all Key Worker parents, complete the attached declaration form and email it the school office by 3.30pm on Tuesday 5th January. Please email to the school email address: admin@woodside.heartwoodmat.co.uk. I have attached government guidance regarding the categories of Key Workers for your information.

In the light of the current infection levels, we have also made the decision to restrict Woodpeckers to children of Key Worker parents only. I appreciate this is short notice but I have a legal duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of staff and pupils and by doing this it will reduce the risk of infection throughout the school. This will be regularly reassessed and we will let you know as soon as we feel it safe to lift this restriction. For those children with bookings for Woodpeckers this week, please confirm your Key Worker status as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continuing support through these uncertain times and let us hope that with two vaccines now being rolled out, that within a few months we can start to ease some of the current restrictions.

Yours sincerely

A H Simpson
Headteacher