

Thursday 22nd October 2020

Dear Woodberry Down Families,

Re: Halfterm Holiday

Whilst some may have had reservations about the return to school in September, it is without doubt that these concerns have been truly quashed during the first eight weeks of the school year. Thank you for the continued support and encouragement you have shown the staff here at the school and for supporting us in our mission to remain COVID free. Your cooperation and support with the changes to the school day has enabled us to reach the halfterm break safely. Although we may not have been able to invite our families into school as much as we normally love to, this has not hindered us from continuing our great learning and getting back to doing what we do best.

As you will be aware, the government approved the London Mayor's request to move the local COVID-19 alert level to high. This change came into effect at midnight on Friday 16th October. Whilst this change has no direct impact on how the school operates, it is important that we continue to keep each other safe during the school break.

During half term, children are not permitted to visit anyone else in another home. Children cannot have playdates or sleepovers in other houses. Children can meet outside in groups of six or less and should maintain suitable distancing outside. Please ensure your child is aware of this. In outdoor areas, the rule of six applies. It is crucial that families maintain a two-metre distance from each other. The latest scientific evidence indicates that you are highly unlikely to catch or spread COVID-19 through air-borne particles if you maintain this distance.

We appreciate that Halloween, and in particular trick or treating, is a popular event for many families. However, we are advising that this year, children do not partake in the traditional style of trick or treating. This is to ensure that children are not in a position to catch or spread the virus. Therefore, knocking on doors, collecting items which may have been touched by others and gathering where groups may be larger than six should not happen.

If you or your child develop the following symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of/change to sense of smell or taste), they should be tested as soon as possible and the whole household should self-isolate at home until the result is received. You can access testing information [here](#).

During the week following the halfterm break, we will be holding virtual parent consultation meetings. These will be taking place on **Thursday 12th November**. In order for the teachers to be able to meet with each of you in one day, **we have taken the decision to close the school for the afternoon on Thursday 12th November**. That means that you will need to collect your child early on this day. I will write to you with the exact pick up times for this day when we have returned to school. Please note that there will be no after school provision on this day but that lunch will be served before the children leave.

With much speculation in the press, many of you have been asking about the length of the halfterm break. We can confirm that, as it stands, the break will last for one week and we are due to return to school on **Monday 2nd November**. There will be no changes to the start and end times of the school day and all gate arrangements will remain as they are now in order to ensure the safety of the school community.

We wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing you on **Monday 2nd November**.

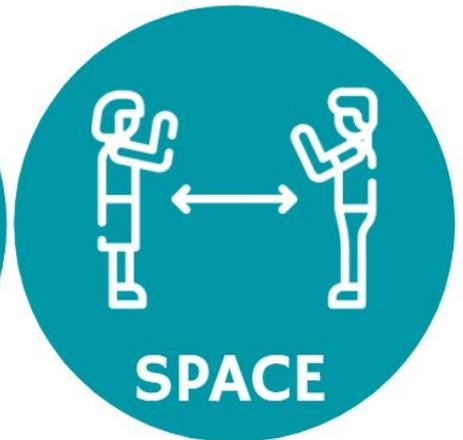
Kind regards



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Executive Headteacher



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new wave federation