



Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Woodberry Down Families,

I am writing to let you know that this week we received confirmation from the DfE of the news announced by Boris Johnson that schools will not fully open before the 8th of March and that this is still a tentative date dependent on coronavirus transmission rates and the impact of the vaccination programme.

I know this is not the news that many were hoping for. We want nothing more than to be able to have all children and staff back at school as soon as possible but this cannot happen while the NHS is under such immense pressure.

This week has been tough. The snow was fun, but the cold, dark days are not. The initial excitement of the iPads and seeing teachers live on the screen is wearing off. Everyone is tired and we are all missing social interaction. Many of you have shared concerns about children falling behind with their learning. Please try not to worry too much about this. If there are days that go wrong or your child doesn't want to engage with everything, it doesn't matter.

We are currently busy preparing a range of off-screen challenges, remote collaborations and experiences including an afternoon a week where children will be able to choose from a range of extracurricular activities or take some time out. We hope that these additions to our provision will help children feel connected and give us all some time to enjoy each other's company whether at home or virtually.

The Free School Meal voucher scheme will continue and the school will be able to make referrals to our local food bank where needed. We will also be able to continue loaning devices and offering support with internet access.

Finally, the school will not be open over the halfterm break. Provision will be made for the reporting of positive cases of COVID-19 in staff and pupils attending school and we will share this information with you before the break.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek Hewie", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Derek Hewie**  
Headteacher