



Whitstable Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to give you an update on how things currently stand at WJS but firstly I'd like to say how lovely it has been getting all your messages wishing me a speedy recovery.

As the term draws to a close and in light of recent positive cases within school, we have decided to make some changes to further minimise the risks associated with COVID19 infections.

School dinners will begin again after the Christmas holidays. For the rest of term, we will only be providing those children who are eligible for Free School Meals with a school packed lunch. This means all children will be eating their lunches in their classrooms. Please inform the office if you do not want the school to provide a Free School Meal Packed lunch. We very much hope that the Festive Packed Lunch will go ahead but at the moment that could change.

We have asked all music teachers to stop their class, group and individual music lessons until after the Christmas holidays. You will hear from them separately regarding this.

Finally, I know that many of you are concerned about further potential bubble closures, either at WJS or at other local schools and the prospect of self-isolation; especially as we head towards Christmas. The Department for Education and Kent County Council have said that schools must remain open up to and including December 18th. We will remain open unless we are directed otherwise.

We all have a responsibility to all those in our communities to reduce the spread of the virus and protect the most vulnerable people, who might be our grandparents or those frontline workers who put themselves at risk every day. As a school we will not be enforcing fines to anyone who believes keeping their children off school in the last week of term will ensure the safety of vulnerable members of their family and community.

As you are aware, we have a range of Christmas activities planned for the last week of term which we hope will be a lovely way to end a quite challenging year for everyone. We will do our very best to make sure that the children have a fun-packed festive week.

Warm wishes,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

