



6th November

Information update for Parents



Here's what you need to know in 5 minutes...

- Lockdown
- Attendance
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- Maths Whizz
- Achievement Assembly
- Remembrance

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Nascot Wood Junior School

Lockdown

On Saturday 31st October, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown which commenced on Thursday 5th November and is likely to last for a month. I'm sorry that we are in this position again, and I wanted to reassure you that we will do everything we can to ensure that the school is kept open, and your children can attend, as usual.

For your information, the government has issued the following transport guidance for the lockdown:

Travel in or out of local areas should be avoided, and parents, carers and staff should look to reduce the number of journeys they make – but travelling to deliver and access education is still permitted.

Staff, children and their parents and carers are encouraged to walk or cycle when travelling to and from school where this is possible, and to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. This will allow social distancing to be practised.

Following the announcement of a lockdown, I requested a virtual meeting with Dean Russell, MP for Watford, which was held on Tuesday 3rd November. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Government's Covid 19 communication strategy, and to provide feedback to the government on some of the challenges that schools are facing at the moment.

I'm pleased to tell you that Dean Russell reiterated the government's commitment to keeping schools open. Dean was impressed by how well Nascot Wood Junior School is coping with educating its children during this pandemic, and I particularly highlighted the important role that you, the parents, are playing in this.

Dean is keen to visit the school in the New Year, when we hope to be able to facilitate this safely.

Attendance

Here are the most up to date attendance percentages, in comparison to the equivalent period last year. You will notice that the percentages are predominantly an improvement on the attendance data from 2019, which is a considerable achievement, given the difficult circumstances. We had lower attendance on Monday 2nd November, due to the absence of a number of year 6 children who were taking secondary school entrance examinations.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that your children have high attendance at school; it remains the most important factor for their ongoing progress and attainment.

Attendance Percentage 2020		Comparative attendance 2019	
Monday 2 nd November	90.30%*	Monday 4 th November	95.19%
Tuesday 3 rd November	97.48%	Tuesday 5 th November	95.93%
Wednesday 4 th November	98.32%	Wednesday 6 th November	97.04%
Thursday 5 th November	98.33%	Thursday 7 th November	97.41%
Friday 6 th November	97.91%	Friday 7 th November	98.15%
Average percentage	96.47%	Average percentage	96.74%
* Lower attendance percentage due to a number of year 6 children taking secondary school entrance examinations			

IMPORTANT: Report on timings change from Monday 9th November

From Monday 2nd November, we altered our timings for the beginning and ending of the school day, to bring them more in line with our pre-lockdown timings.

The children have managed these changes really well, and I would like to thank you for preparing them for this.

I'm pleased to say that the shortened 'opening window' has not resulted in higher congestion at the beginning of the school day, and the vast majority of children have been in school on time and ready to learn.

We have had one or two children arriving late in the morning – please ensure that your children arrive *before the gate closes at 8.50am*, as we do not want to put the Office staff at any additional risk, due to close contact with any late arrivals. It is most important that your child is accessing all the learning opportunities each day, as Class Teachers endeavour to promote accelerated learning in response to the inevitable gaps that occurred during the first lockdown.

Having operated our dismissal system, we are concerned that the exit route for years 5 and 6 is too busy, as it dovetails with that of the Infant School. We are finding that it is taking additional time to dismiss Years 5 and 6 safely and responsibly, and it is therefore delaying the dismissal of years 3 and 4.

With this in mind we have decided that, from *Monday 9th November*, we will trial the following:

Years 3 and 4 will be dismissed between 3.15pm and 3.25pm, using exactly the same procedures as we are using currently.

Years 5 and 6 will be dismissed by their Class Teachers from the main school gate, once years 3 and 4 have been dismissed (approximately 3.30pm). There will still be provision for year 5 and 6 children to collect siblings in years 3 and 4.

Please can you ask your children not to wait for their friends outside the front entrance, as this is becoming congested. As previously suggested, please consider using the green space at the end of Molteno Road as a meeting point.

Maths Whizz

Thank you to everyone who has paid for a Maths Whizz subscription. You will remember that, in order to access this offer from Maths Whizz, we needed to generate 200 subscriptions. Unfortunately, we did not achieve this, but we wanted to go ahead for the people who have subscribed.

We have written to all those people, asking for a small additional payment, which will mean that we can proceed with the offer.

Login details will be given out in the usual way – we hope that your children continue to benefit from this excellent resource.

Achievement Assembly



In this week's assembly, I was joined by Elm class.

The children will be shown this recording in their classrooms, and you can also access it on the school's facebook page:

<https://www.nascotwoodjm.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Achievement+Assemblies&pid=1202>

Remembrance



Each year, the whole school comes together to commemorate Remembrance, honouring those who served during the first and second world wars, to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life.

This is one of the most important whole-school events of the year, and emphasises to the children the importance of avoiding conflict and finding peaceful solutions to problems.

This year, our Remembrance assembly will be recorded and shown to the classes on Wednesday 11th November at 11am. This assembly will also be available for parents to watch on the school's website and facebook page.

