



Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for such a warm, supportive and understanding welcome. This was certainly not how I expected my first couple of weeks in post to look. I would like to start by saying my thoughts are with everybody in our community during this period of uncertainty. If you are in isolation, a critical worker, providing support for those in need or a newly appointed home school teacher, it has been fantastic to see the community pull together and demonstrate the school values in such a difficult times. As a community we currently have to think differently to ensure that we can still let our light shine.

I would also like to apologise for the teething issues some have experienced in the Google classroom roll out and thank you all for your patience and understanding. Many of you will have already seen the power this platform provides us in ensuring that those at home and in school receive the highest quality education in the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Mr Broad has included further guidance to support use of the system and will continue to do so over the coming weeks. However if you experience any issues please do not hesitate to contact us.

And this is the message I want to get across today – you are all doing a great job so please do not worry about how much school work you are getting through – do what you can without causing unnecessary stress at home – that is the last thing we want. Where the learning is too challenging or you feel your child may need to be extended please do let the teacher know and they will do everything they can to support this. In the classroom they would usually spot this themselves however in the circumstances we find ourselves it may be more difficult to identify and working together to support each child is paramount. And finally please remember learning comes in many ways, where time permits please do take the opportunity to cook, garden and teach important life skills during this time.

**Mr D Jeffries, Head Teacher**

### Google Classrooms

On Monday 11 January, we launched the use of Google Classroom to support remote learning from home. Whilst some technical issues have cropped up, we have been working hard to provide activities for each lesson that the pupils have each day according to their normal timetable and this should be coming online for most lessons. The expectation is that children will access these following their normal school timetable. Of course, we appreciate that it may not be possible to follow the exact lesson times of the school day, so we're keeping activities open in Google Classroom so that they can be completed during the week.

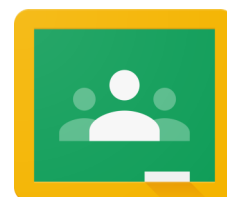
There will be occasions when the teacher would like children to join them in a live video lesson using Google Meet. This will normally take place at the same time they would normally have this lesson. You will find a link to this in the classroom and also on the Google Calendar for this class.

For more information about Google Classroom, please visit <https://www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk/curriculum/google-classroom>

For technical support email [gctechhelp@selwood-academy.co.uk](mailto:gctechhelp@selwood-academy.co.uk)

For support with learning content please contact the relevant teacher.

For pastoral concerns please contact the Tutor or Head of Year.



### Keyworker pupils

We would like to thank all parents and carers of keyworker children for their ongoing support in providing clear evidence of their status. Due to the number of requests and current level of provision being offered we will have to continue to review the provision available. However at the current time there is no change for families who currently have a place at school during lockdown.

**For any further requests** for a place in school moving forward we will require a letter from your employer confirming your keyworker status. It would be helpful if this was on headed paper and stated days

*"Let your light shine before others" Matthew 5 v 19*

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Registered Company Number: 7814065

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - Selwood Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and we expect all members of staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

and times you are required to attend work. This will help us understand your circumstances fully and establish whether we are able to support based on the current level of demand.

Whilst understanding the difficulties of home schooling and working from home we want to do everything we can to limit the number of children attending school in an attempt first and foremost to keep our community safe. We will have to give priority to children where both parents are keyworkers and **cannot** work from home in any capacity. Please remember that current guidance for all parents including critical workers is that they "should keep their children at home if they can."

Thank you for your ongoing support in this regard.

### Attendance for key worker and vulnerable pupils

If your child is attending school as a keyworker or vulnerable pupil please could you contact the absence line, 01373 468615, in the morning as you would normally if there is any reason why your child will not be attending as arranged on that day.

If your child will not be attending school on a full-time basis please ensure you inform the school which days they will be in by the end of the previous week at the very latest by emailing

[attendance.selwood@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:attendance.selwood@educ.somerset.gov.uk).

**Reminder - Following the government's decision before Christmas to entitle schools to an additional INSET day in January to prepare for mass testing, we will now be having an INSET day on Friday 23 July 2021**

It is vitally important that we have up to date contact details, including email addresses and mobile phone numbers for parents and carers of all our pupils. If you have recently changed your details or are unsure if we hold the correct information, please contact us.

### PE advice for pupils currently in school:

- PE lessons will continue to be practical where suitable.
- FULL PE kit to be worn
- Coats can be worn if raining (teacher's discretion)
- Warm hats, gloves, leggings (under shorts) Jogger bottoms (over shorts) encouraged.
- Warm layers encouraged UNDERNEATH rugby top
- 3G boots and trainers required for ALL lessons



### Donations to school

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the very generous member of the community who has donated the funds to buy an iPad for use by a Selwood child. Also to furniture manufacturer Herman Miller who have donated 8 laptops to the school. These are hugely appreciated and will be used by pupils whilst home learning.



Selwood Academy are looking for a new parent trustee. If you would like to find out more about this interesting opportunity please see our website.

<https://www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk/news/2020-11-10-could-you-be-a-parent-trustee>

Please be aware that due to the current situation windows in classrooms will be kept open during the winter months for ventilation. Pupils are advised to wear layers underneath their school uniform.



In the event of school closure due to severe weather, parents will receive a text message from the school. A message will also be posted on our website and Facebook page, and local radio will be informed.

**This newsletter and other letters from school are available to read on our website**  
<https://selwood.somerset.sch.uk/>