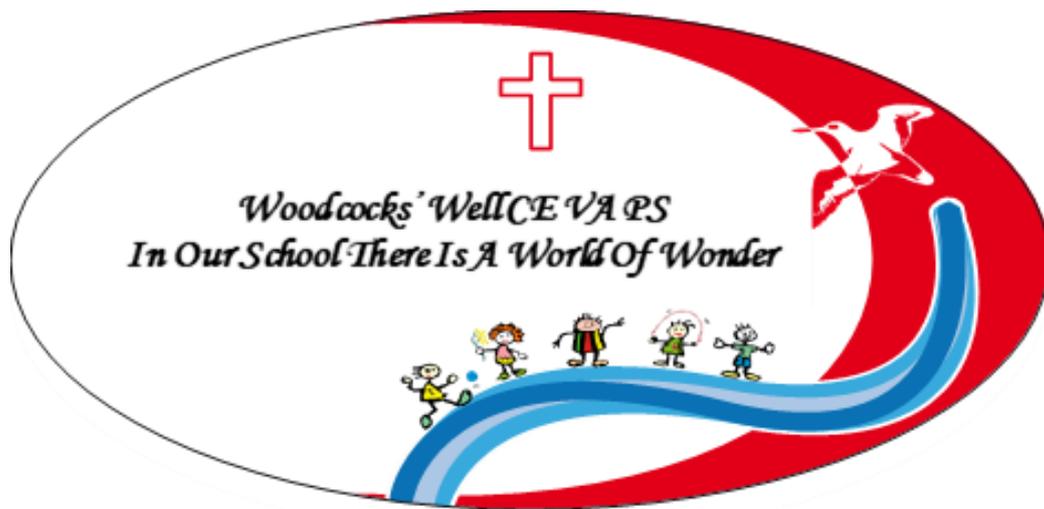


Woodcock's Well CE (VA) Primary School

A Parents' Guide to Returning to School



8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are all aware it is expected that all children return to school, full time, from 8th March 2021.

The Government recognise that returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all children can return to school sooner rather than later.

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from Coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school.

We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families. It is hoped that the following guide provides you with all of the required information for the children's full return to school from the 8th March 2021.

This booklet should explain the procedures happening in school. After reading this advice, if you have any further questions about your child's return to school then please email me directly:

head@woodcockswell.cheshire.sch.uk

Warmest Regards,

Mrs S. Beckett
Headteacher

When will my child return to school?

All children will return to school full time from Monday 8th September 2021.

The children will be in a class 'bubble'. The only time when your child will be taught in a different group would be for specialist teaching that they are required to participate in. We are still having specialist adults in school to deliver interventions. If you wish your child to attend breakfast or after school clubs, they may cross several bubbles.

Does my child have to attend school?

No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason.

From the 8th March 2021 it is expected that all children return to school full time. Teachers are required to take their attendance register daily.

What control measures are in place?

Prevention

- Contact will be minimised with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that any children or staff who have Coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their house who does, does not attend school. We are asking that parents support us in this measure by not sending their child in to school if they are unwell.
- Cleaning hands thoroughly and more often than usual by washing with soap and running water or using hand sanitiser. We also have E45 moisturising cream for children to use.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Enhanced cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces often.
- Minimising contact with children between class bubbles wherever possible.
- Staff wearing PPE when dealing with any instances of first aid or illness of children.

Response to any infection

- School will engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Confirmed cases of Coronavirus will be managed amongst the school community - We will contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Parking

There will be an increased number of parents parking from the 8th of March 2021. Can I please ask all parents to:

- Drive slowly on to the car park - no more than 5 miles per hour
- Not to park in the mouth of the school gates as this causes congestion
- Not to park directly outside the front of the school building
- Be considerate of residents when parking
- Be patient with each other

What will the school day look like?

Social distancing measures will need to be adopted by all parents when dropping off and collecting children. When on site, we request that all adults wear a face covering. The rolling start to the beginning and end of the school day will continue.

Dropping children off at the start of the day

Children will be allowed to be dropped off between 8:45am-9:00am

Reception, Maple and Oak via the parents' car park, where a member of staff will be there to greet them.

Willow and Olive via the front gate, where a member of staff will be there to greet them. If you have children in different classes, they may all enter via the same point. If you walk to school and are on Maple and Oak

Collecting children at the end of the day

3:05pm - Acorn will be dismissed as well as older siblings - Collect from the parent car park area. The children will be walked down to you.

3:15pm - Olive and Willow Class will be dismissed as well as older siblings - Collect from the front of school.

3:15pm - Maple and Oak class will be dismissed - Collect from the parent car park area. The children will be walked up to you.

Only 1 parent or responsible adult will be able to drop off and collect children daily. This will reduce the number of adults on site at one time. Parents should not gather at the school gates and must socially distance when waiting to collect your child/children.

Please do not come on to the school site. The class teacher will send your child/children to you so as to minimise the risk of children and adults mixing - please be patient with us. If you have a child in Nursery and Olive or Willow Class, we will bring your child to the parent car park area.

Please leave the site promptly after collection. Please do not allow your child/children to play with or on the equipment outside of school times.

Any messages for teachers need to be sent via Class Dojo/email or message left via the school office. Staff will respond to messages as soon as they possible can.

Children entering/leaving the classroom

Children will continue to follow the same procedures. On entry to the school, they will take their coat off and wash their hands before sitting down to start the school day.

What does my child need to bring to school?

Children need to bring to school a variety of equipment in their bag each day. Some children already have equipment in school. The following list should provide a checklist for parents each day.

- **Stationery** - Clear, plastic pencil case containing pencil, green pen, 15cm ruler, rubber, sharpener, coloured pencils, glue, scissors. It is important that the pencil case is made from plastic and not fabric in order to prevent infection. Please contact school if you are unable to provide this equipment.
- **Water bottle** - This should be filled with clean, **fresh water** every day.
- **Packed lunch and healthy snack** - Hot school meals are on offer and can be ordered through the online payment system.
- **Appropriate clothes and equipment for the weather** - It is ESSENTIAL that children are prepared for the weather such as snow boots, hats, gloves, sun cream.
- **Reading books** - These can still be transported between home and school. Please ensure handwashing takes place at home once books have been handled.

Having all of this equipment will reduce the risk of sharing resources and limit possible transmission of any viruses. Parents can help their child by asking questions like, “Do you have.....?”

We recommend children do not wear a watch. The reason for not wearing a watch is due to the need to wash wrists, which will be frequent during the school day. Children with pierced ears must only wear studs. They must not bring in any toys from home.

ALL EQUIPMENT NEEDS TO BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME TO AVOID MIXING BELONGINGS.

What does my child need to wear?

Children will need to wear school uniform from Monday 8th March 2021.

On PE days children will need to come to school in PE kits and trainers. It will prevent the need for children to get changed. Logistically, socially distancing them all whilst getting changed would be very difficult. There will also be no lost kits! Your class teacher will be letting you know what day your PE lessons are.

Who will be teaching my child?

Children will be taught by their class teacher for the majority of the day. We are fortunate to have additional, qualified, adults who may work with your child in a small group in or out of the classroom. Teachers are entitled to PPA time and this will be covered by qualified, skilled staff who are already employed by school. Guidance states that adults can move between classrooms and groups of children as long as hygiene measures are followed.

How will my child change their reading book?

Reading books can continue to go home. Children will be able to select books from our new reading area. Staff will facilitate changing the books when necessary and only one class at a time will be using the reading area. Children will wash their hands once they have left the reading area. If your child reads books quickly, we recommend choosing 2 books. By choosing two books, this will reduce the number of times your child will need to visit the reading area. Children and Adults must wash hands after touching reading books at school and home.

What happens at break time?

Morning break

Children will still have a 15-minute morning break. They will be able to order snack from the kitchen or eat the healthy snack provided by home. Free fruit will be available for children in Key Stage 1. Each class has a designated outdoor area, and their own equipment, to use a breaktimes.

Lunch time

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL. There are a number of people in school who have a severe allergic reactions to a range of nuts resulting in anaphylactic shock. When sending in packed lunches and snacks please ensure food **does not** contain nuts.

School meals will be available to order and payments must be made through payment system in advance. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still receive a Universal Free School Meal.

All children will eat together in their classrooms. They will wipe their own tables down before and after they eat. Those children who have ordered a school dinner will have it delivered to class. Once all children have eaten, they will go out to play in their designated area.

What will my child's classroom look like?

Acorn

Acorn class will be set up with designated learning areas. There will be a limited number of children allowed in each area. They will be taught to place 'used' toys in a box for cleaning or clean the items themselves. There will be a teacher table where guided learning will take place. The adults will either be above the child's face or side on to the child to reduce the possible transmission of germs. Staff working in close proximity to the children may wear a face covering. Ventilation is key. The windows and doors will be open throughout the day and outdoor learning will be encouraged.

Olive, Willow, Maple and Oak

Classes will sit in rows facing the front. They will be as close to 2m from the teacher's area as possible, so as to maintain social distancing between the adult/child. Where social distancing is not possible, adults will either be above the child's face or side on to the child to reduce the

possible transmission of germs. Staff working in close proximity to the children may wear a face covering.

In the classes where their numbers have been reduced, children will sit on their own tables.

Staff will aim to not spend more than 15 minutes in close proximity to a child. Ventilation is key; windows will be open throughout the day and outdoor learning will be encouraged.

What will my child be learning at school?

Children will be continuing with their national curriculum lessons. The timings will resume to the usual school day now we are all back together. During the first week we will ensure that children 'settle' back into the school routine. We will also have a Forest School lesson. Your teacher will contact you to tell you more next week.

Practical lessons can go ahead if equipment can be cleaned thoroughly otherwise it will be quarantined for 72 hours.

We will also focus on our new Google Learning Platform. We will teach the children how to access resources in order to complete their work. If there is to be a second spike or localised lockdown children will be well rehearsed in being able to access online lessons.

Some parents may be worried that their child has fallen behind. All children will be reassessed in their learning before Easter so that we can identify teaching points moving forward. Where it is deemed that a child needs to revisit or review part of their learning, they will either receive targeted support during the school day with an additional adult or they may be invited to an after school booster session.

Will my child still have to complete statutory tests?

The Government have announced that there will be no statutory assessments for the academic year 2020/2021. We will continue to moderate children's learning throughout the rest of the year.

Will my child need PPE?

The current guidance states that PPE is not recommended in a school setting, other than for staff who may be dealing with children that require first aid, become ill whilst at school or are in communal areas.

What if my child needs first aid or intimate care?

Any member of staff dealing with first aid MUST wear PPE when dealing with body fluids, blood, sick etc. There are fully trained first aiders on site.

If a pupil becomes ill, see the section below for full details.

Will my child go on an educational visit or a residential?

For the rest of the academic year there will be no educational visits or residentials. Swimming for children will be postponed until it is deemed safe to reinstate. Children will use the outdoor local area to support and enhance their learning.

Will my child take part in whole school activities?

Following the Government guidance, we will not gather in a large group. We will hold our assemblies using our Google Learning Platform - Google Meet.

Will my child be sharing equipment?

Equipment sharing will be minimised as much as possible. Children are required to bring into school their own pencil cases etc as described on page 3.

Where IT equipment is used, it will be thoroughly sanitised before another class uses it. This also applies to any art and science equipment. Any P.E. equipment will also be thoroughly cleaned in between each class' use. Books and games will be shared amongst children in their own class bubble. Where equipment cannot be cleaned it will be quarantined for 72 hours.

What will happen with cleaning and hygiene at school?

Where possible, children will be encouraged to help clean classrooms on a regular basis. This is following the guidance given. We have an enhanced cleaning regime in place and each area has a PPE box so that adults can clean the space as required.

What if my child becomes ill at school?

If children are poorly, they will be sent home. If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in school, they will be sent home and advised to follow the *COVID-19: guidance for households with possible Coronavirus infection*.

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to the isolation area where they can be kept away from other children. The area will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child, while they await collection, if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus in a setting?' on the next page).

Staff will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell before returning to their class. The affected area will be sanitised to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE 2 UP TO DATE CONTACT NUMBERS FOR EVERY PUPIL THAT IS ATTENDING SCHOOL. PARENTS MUST HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR METHOD OF CONTACT (MOBILE ETC) DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

Parents must inform us immediately of any results of a test so that school can put the necessary measures into place.

What happens if there is a possible case of coronavirus in school?

When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with Coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to book a test. Their fellow household members should self-isolate until the results of the test are known.

Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

Where a staff member has an inconclusive/positive LFD test, this will be treated as a positive test. The rest of their class will be sent home. If the PCR test is negative staff and children will return to school. If the PCR test is positive the self-isolation continues until the end of day 10. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

School MUST be informed of any outcomes of a COVID test.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise us on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole school.

Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting should not be necessary.

Will my child be eligible for testing?

All children and staff are eligible for testing. The Government has made some home test kits available to all schools in September for those parents who have difficulties getting to a test centre. Please speak to us if you need a home test kit. Tests can be booked following this link <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> .

Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is already available to all essential workers showing symptoms. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work - including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. If a member of staff was to test positive, parents would be informed and classes may have to be closed.

Will I be able to volunteer in school?

Unfortunately, we will not be welcoming volunteers in school during the restrictive measures. We are looking forward to welcoming our extended community back in September. All volunteers will still need to be fully checked following DBS processes before they are able to come in and work with children.