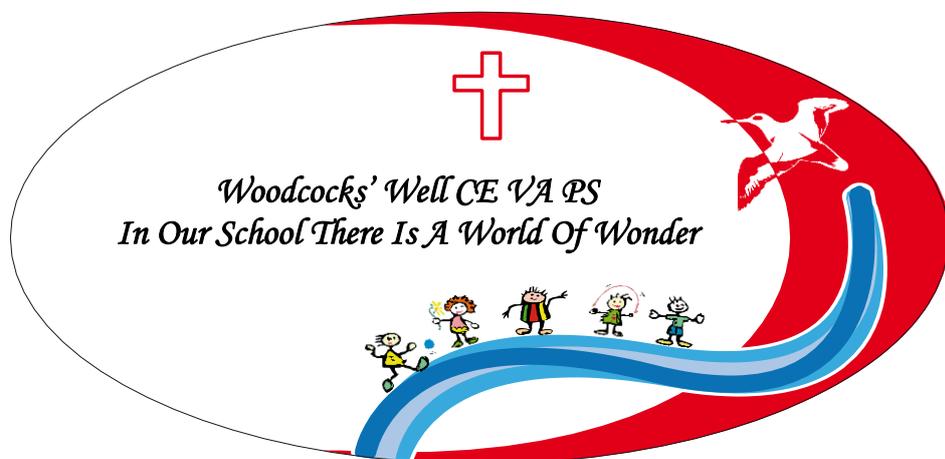


Headteacher:

Mrs J.Massen B.Ed(Hons)MEd NPQH
Church Street
Mow Cop
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 3NQ
Tel: 01782 512323
admin@woodcockswell.cheshire.sch.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

18.5.2020

You will be well aware of the debate regarding school provision for children in Pre-School, Reception, Years 1 and 6 being reintroduced from 1.6.2020, at the earliest.

We are working extremely hard to create as safe an environment as possible in school, in line with the government guidance. The guidance from the DfE outlines measures to be taken in school to reduce the risk of Covid19 infection. Please see links below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

It is important to note that we will do everything that we can to support the safe practice of 'social distancing' of children in school. However, children find it difficult to adhere to the **social distancing** rules all of the time. It is our view that, in addition to educating children about social distancing and introducing strategies to promote this, **hygiene standards** take priority as a means of keeping your child safe from infection.

Regular hand washing and cleaning of surfaces where there has been hand contact, including use of toilets and sinks, will become a regular feature throughout the school day. Changes are being made to maximise space in the classrooms and introduce additional hand washing / sanitisation stations. We will be sharing more of our plans with you as they develop and we welcome your feedback.

At this stage we are able to share with you what we currently know and are working on:

Guidance for parents on phased reopening of education settings

The government is asking schools to open for Pre-School, YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils. Given the changes we are making in school, you will need to know what school will look like for those pupils who return.

School will not look the way it normally does, particularly for our youngest pupils. We will need to change the layout of classrooms and it will not be possible to allow the free movement or play that your child has been used to.

How will you keep the children apart?

- ✓ Children will attend in small groups or 'bubbles'; the guidance suggests no more than 15 children in any room at any time. Each 'bubble' will have their own indoor area, teaching staff and play space. Each

'bubble' will be kept separate from all the others and children and adults will stay with the same 'bubble' when in school. We have asked all staff who are able to work in school, to help. **This means that your child may have a different teacher or teaching assistant, on their return, and may not see all their friends at school.**

- ✓ We will attempt to keep children 2 metres apart at all times but this has proved to be very difficult, particularly with younger pupils. Pupils will be reminded of social distancing rules, desks and seats will be separated and pupils will each have their own equipment i.e. writing materials, scissors, ruler etc. In the case of younger children, play equipment will be wiped clean after being played with and before the next child handles it.
- ✓ School will be open between 08:30 and 15:30 with teaching between 09:30 and 14:30. We will stagger drop-off and collection times in order to observe social distancing rules. You will be informed of your drop-off and collection time. The guidance recommends that only one adult should accompany the pupil to school. To observe social distancing, parents/carers should not enter the building or gather at school gates and doors.
- ✓ We will be staggering break & lunchtimes so that the 'bubbles' are not mixing together/moving around the school at the same time.
- ✓ Movement around the school will be marshalled in order to reduce the risk of contact.

How will you reduce the risk of infection for my child in school?

- ✓ We will be completing a comprehensive risk assessment.
- ✓ The guidance does not recommend the wearing of PPE, however this is an area for further debate in the best interest of the children and staff. In the event of a child being taken ill, PPE will be worn to attend to the child's needs (whilst we wait for parents to collect).
- ✓ As much as possible, social distancing will be observed within the 'bubbles'.
- ✓ Movement in classrooms and around the school will be managed in order to reduce the risk of contact.
- ✓ It is our intention to make best use of our wonderful school grounds and engage in learning opportunities outside the classroom each day.
- ✓ Rooms will be well ventilated with windows open and doors propped open. I recommend that children dress in layers so that they remain comfortable if the temperature is cooler than normal.
- ✓ Items must not be brought into school. Children will only need to bring warm clothes to wear during the day including a coat, a drinks bottle and a snack.
- ✓ We will be providing a packed lunch service and this will include a warm food option such as wedges, served to the children's 'bubble' and, when possible, eaten outside, The packed lunches will be available to all children at a reduced price of £1.50. Any packed lunches from home must be sent in a disposable bag. There will be no charge for children entitled to free school meals and children in Reception and Year 1.
- ✓ Very frequent hand washing and sanitising of surfaces will take place. Children will be encouraged to help keep their own area clean.
- ✓ The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' mantra will be stressed. Bins will be emptied throughout the day and each classroom will be sanitised at the end of every day.
- ✓ Hand sanitisers will be available in every classroom, in corridors and the school hall.

- ✓ Outdoor equipment/apparatus/play equipment/climbing frames will not be accessible because of the difficulty of sharing surfaces and of cleaning.
- ✓ We encourage you to walk or cycle to school to avoid contact whilst parking.

Will my child have to wear school uniform?

- ✓ We are not recommending school uniform. Please send your child in to school in clean clothes each day they are in school and wash all clothes at the end of the school day.

What will the children be learning?

- ✓ Our main focus will be on the children's mental health and well-being and on helping them transition back to school and to the next stage of their education.
- ✓ Children in school will be following the same planned activities as children in the same year group who are continuing their learning at home.
- ✓ **Sadly, we will be unable to help our Y6 pupils take part in the usual end of primary school activities. However, we will continue to look for opportunities to mark this special time in their lives.**

What if my child becomes unwell?

- ✓ If anyone has a cough/temperature/feels unwell at school, parents will be contacted to collect them. They will need to self-isolate for 7 days, or until tested negative. Anyone in the child's household will need to self-isolate for 14 days.
- ✓ If a child or adult shows symptoms and tests positive for CoVid-19, then the whole group that the child/adult was in must be sent home and they must self-isolate for 14 days.
- ✓ Staff and children should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household.

What if my child has a medical condition or if I, or a member of my family, is 'shielding'?

- ✓ Children or adults who are clinically extremely vulnerable (or 'shielding') or who live with someone who is 'shielding' should NOT attend school.

How can I contact the school?

- ✓ The school has remained open since lock down, providing a childcare service for Key Worker parents. Emails are picked up daily and responded to.

My child is not in YR, Y1 or Y6, will they be returning before the end of the school year?

- ✓ The government have said that it is their 'ambition' to bring all pupils back in to school before the end of the school year but that will depend on a number of factors. We will be better able to answer this question in a few weeks' time. In the meantime, all the current online learning resources will continue to be refreshed and sequenced. Please let us know if there is anything else that would be useful to you.
- ✓ Because of the school opening once again and staff allocated to working within the bubbles, you may find that the teacher overseeing your child's education has changed.
- ✓

My child has been attending because I am a key worker. Can he/she still attend?

- ✓ Yes – if not in YR, Y1 or Y6, these children will continue with their current arrangements.

Is it compulsory for my child to attend?

- ✓ It is not compulsory for your child to attend and there will be no sanctions for non-attendance. We will endeavour to follow all the guidelines and to take all the precautions we can to keep your child safe should you decide to send your child to school, however, we understand that you will want to make your own decision about what is best for your child under these circumstances and we will support and respect whatever you decide.

You can contact me by email if you wish to discuss any further concerns.

We will once again be asking you 5 key questions via dojo:

- 1. Do you feel that your child will be safe in school?***
- 2. If your child is R, Y1 or Y6, will you be sending your child to school when it re-opens?***
- 3. If your child is in any other year group, will you be sending your child to school when the provision extends to these year groups?***
- 4. Do you belong to the Key Worker category and will you be requiring use of the child care provision? This question is for parents of children in all year groups.***
- 5. The wearing of face coverings has been known to be beneficial. Use of face coverings will be at the parents discretion. Please answer the question: Should my child wear a face covering?'***

Your response to this poll is extremely important in assisting us with our plans. Please respond by no later than Wednesday 20th May 2020, providing a response for each child in your family, attending Woodcocks' Well PS.

We all know that there is no 'quick fix' to the coronavirus pandemic and that it is likely to be with us for some time. To a large degree, it is our actions that will determine how long that will be. We look to each other to observe social distancing in school, outside of school, at home and at work. We have all experienced, seen or heard the many stories of sacrifice since the start of the year.

Please, please, please do not allow this dreadful virus to raise its head again.

**RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO RELAX OUR STANDARDS AND
OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES**

for your sake and that of your children, your family and friends and the wider community.

On a happier note, the staff and governors have made a video for children and families to watch and enjoy. The video will be uploaded onto the school website later today. Please look out for it. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their sincere messages and to Mrs Thwaites and Mr Thwaites who, very cleverly, pieced it all together. Enjoy ☺

With warmest regards,

Julie Massen