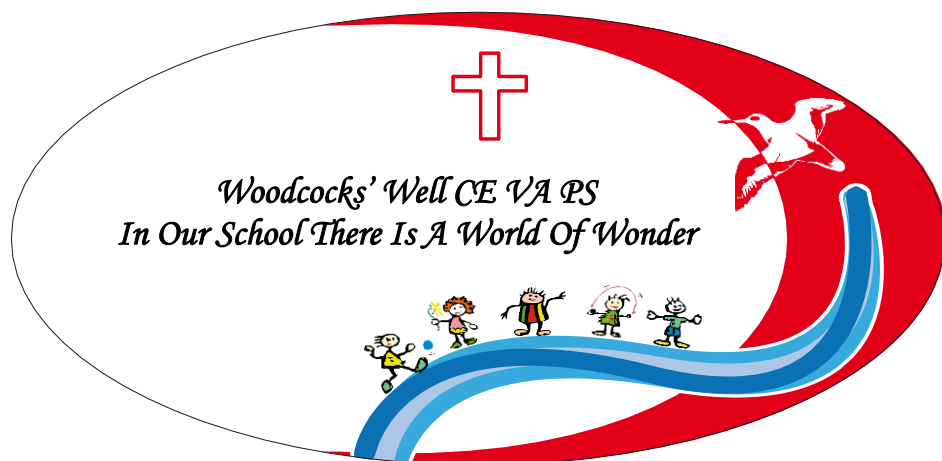


**Headteacher:**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

1.6.2020

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for the effort that has been made and is still being made to support our children through this pandemic. I appreciate how difficult it has been for many families who are having to juggle work commitments as well as supporting children with their home learning.

The Key Worker childcare provision has been in place since 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, continuing through the Easter and Whit week holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, also, for all they have done and are doing to meet the needs of children at home and in school. Our Key Worker childcare provision is still in place and, if you are interested in accessing this provision, please contact me on [head@woodcockswell.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@woodcockswell.cheshire.sch.uk).

Today, the Pre-School provision re-opened and we are now preparing for the wider opening of school and the phased return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. From the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June, Reception children will be welcomed back, if the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time and then Year 1 on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and Year 6 on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Some categories of children with specific serious health conditions should not attend their early years setting. If you are unsure whether your child should attend the setting due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact us so we can discuss the details with you.

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the setting. That includes children and staff who work here.
- Keeping our children in small groups or 'bubbles' with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other 'bubbles' around the setting.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered. Low level hand wash troughs are being installed in classrooms and other areas.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the setting, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing.

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above concerning arrival and departure and not bringing toys to the setting.

1. If you, your child or any other person living in your household exhibit symptoms that could be linked with coronavirus i.e. temperature, cough, loss of smell and/or taste, sickness, upset stomach, you are requested to keep your child at home and follow the NHS coronavirus test / isolation advice.
2. In the event of your child becoming unwell whilst at school, he or she will be looked after in one of our classrooms, which has been reserved for this purpose. You will be contacted and asked to collect your child from school within a short, agreed timeframe.
3. Please ensure that only one parent accompanies your child to school and the same at the end of the day.
4. Areas at the front and rear of the school will be marked out to encourage social distancing amongst parents who are waiting to collect children from school and bringing children to school at the start of the day.

Whilst we will do everything we can to settle and reassure the children when they return to school, it is important that they understand, before returning, that school i.e. the classrooms, classes, playtimes etc will be different.

Please share the attached book with your child. It will help them to understand why we are introducing 'bubbles' and social distancing. Talk to your child about the importance of washing hands regularly and use of tissues and bins.

There is still much to do in school, prior to the phased return. Below are some pictures of the changing classrooms / toilets etc that you can show your child to help prepare him/her for these changes:



Once early years and childcare providers open to more children, all children who are attending a childcare setting/school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested.

The aim is to enable children to get back to childcare/school, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves to be negative.

A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.



We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. Here is a link that gives more information about getting a coronavirus test: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us from 1 June. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our setting. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

I will continue to update you on the progress that is being made in school and this will include more pictures to share with your child, as we move towards re-opening the school to more children.

Thank you for completing the surveys sent home on dojo. After reading this letter, please complete a final survey that is being released on dojo today. The outcome of this will enable us to finalise the 'bubbles' and staffing arrangements.

Home learning resources and support will continue to come home and these resources will also be used in school so that all children have an equal opportunity to receive curriculum appropriate materials, according to their age and ability. Just to reiterate, it is not compulsory to send your child to school during the coronavirus pandemic. I am more than happy to talk to you about schooling / home schooling options that will fit with your own requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email and I will get back to you as soon as I am able. Alternatively, you can try ringing the school. I am here most days.

Please now look out for the survey and complete it as soon as you are able i.e. by no later than the end of tomorrow. Thank you

Please take care and remember to maintain high social distancing, according to government recommendations, to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Massen