



16th July 2020

Dear Parents,

What a year! None of us could have predicted the turbulent and uncertain times that Coronavirus have brought. When we closed the school on 20th March, I think most of us thought that it would re-open by Easter or May at the latest. Little did we know that even in September we would still not be back to 'normal'.

Over the summer term, we have provided a school place for children whose parents are key workers, including over the Easter holidays. We have provided work for children via the portal (with paper copies where needed) and we have kept in regular contact with you to check that things are OK at home and to help with the learning where necessary.

Once children were allowed back into school we carried out rigorous risk assessments in order to minimise the risk of infection and put a wide range of protective measures in place. The percentage of children who returned to school in Years 1, 6 and reception was far higher than those nationally; 67% at Woodside compared to 41 % nationally. It was a real joy to see the school filling up with happy children. Over the summer term we were able to provide over 1400 days of care for key worker children from March to the end of term!

This week it has been a pleasure to see children from Years 2, 3 4 and the new reception children coming into school to meet their teachers for next year.

Over the past week I have been working on the new government guidance for every child to return to school in September. It states that all children must return to school in September, except the very few who are still unable to, in line with Public Health England advice because they are self-isolating or they are shielding. I have updated the school risk assessment and this will be posted on the school website.

In September, we will be working in class 'bubbles' , keeping each class separate from each other as far as possible. This will mean staggered starts and ends to the day. We will also be reducing lunchtime by 10 minutes each day to facilitate staggered days, without reducing teaching time. We will be minimising the movement of staff between bubbles but DfE guidance states that staff can move between groups where necessary.

Protective measures in place from September:

- Children to wear PE kit to school on PE days (outdoor kit as wherever possible PE will be outside, joggers, t-shirt and sweatshirt and trainers). The school will text out to let you know which days will be PE days)
- Wherever possible please use school money system to avoid having to pay cash at the office
- If you need to speak to a member of staff, please ring/email to make an appointment rather than coming onto school site

- NO rucksacks/bags to be brought into school- only book bags and homework
- Packed lunches need to be in disposable bags or a plastic storage box
- All children will have their own individual resources so there will be no need for children to bring in pencil cases
- Children will be hand washing several times a day. Each classroom will have alcoholic based hand sanitiser - if this is an issue for your child please let the school know
- Each class will have their own break and lunchtime so that the classes do not mix
- There will be no tuck shop initially - if you would like to send your child with some fruit that is fine

TIMINGS

Year Group/Class	Start	Finish
Ash	8.50	3.20
Holly	8.40	3.10
Maple	8.40	3.10
Larch	8.50	3.20
Chestnut	8.50	3.20
Cherry	8.30	3.00
Beech	8.30	3.00

Wherever possible please walk/cycle to school to avoid congestion around the school gates and please endeavour to only arrive at your child's allotted time. Parents should hand over their children at the school gate and not enter the school site. Children will line up by the cones/crosses and a member of staff will take them into their classroom.

We will send out a reminder of this information the week before school re-opens.

I do hope that you have an enjoyable summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming everyone back safely in September.

A. H. Simpson

Headteacher