

Woodcroft Primary School



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Dear Parents/Carers,

We appreciate deciding whether or not to send your child back to school has been a difficult decision and you will possibly have questions that still need answering. We have therefore compiled a list which will hopefully answer some of these questions.

Q: Do I have to send my child back?

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school and have taken every precaution to ensure the school environment is as safe as possible. However, we understand that some parents, for a variety of reasons, may wish to keep their child at home. It is not compulsory for children to attend, you will not be fined at this time for non-attendance but this may change.

Q: Can I send my child later in the term if I change my mind?

Yes, but please give us notice so we can make sure they are accommodated in a 'bubble'. You will not be able to just turn up at school.

Q: Will the children be able to go outside in their bubbles?

Yes, the outside space has been timetabled to allow all bubble groups to have time outside and to ensure the groups don't mix. Spending time outside has been strongly advised within the Government guidance.

Q: Why can't my child play with other children in different groups at playtimes?

Children will only be able to play with other children in their own class bubbles to enable us to maintain distance from others and therefore minimising the risk to others.

Q: Will work packs and welfare phone calls still be provided if I do not send my child to school?

We will continue to set home learning activities during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. These will be very similar to what the children in school are working on. With school re-opening to a greater number of children, parents will need to be mindful that teaching staff may not be as responsive to Class Dojo messages regarding work pack questions during the time children are within school but will do their best to reply as soon as they are able.

The adult making the weekly phone calls to you and your child to check-in with them may also change.

Q: What happens if my child hurts themselves, is upset or becomes poorly?

All bubbles will have qualified first aiders and the children will be looked after in the usual kind and caring way by an adult in their bubble. If your child is suspected of having COVID-19 symptoms you will be phoned immediately so it is very important your phone is switched on and you are available to speak to while your child is in school and that we have the correct contact numbers for you.

Q: How will social distancing take place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

The DfE guidance states '*We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.*'

We will do our best to support social distancing at Woodcroft and there are already measures in place such as staggered start and end times, markings around the school and playground/path ways, tables spread out within the classrooms etc. However, parents need to know that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch adults and also one another. Children will come into close contact with other children in their bubble and the teaching staff. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are realistically able to do and use this to inform their decision making.

Q: Can my child just attend on days that I choose?

Once your child's year group returns to school, we will be expecting them to follow the usual pattern of attendance everyday (except Friday afternoons when we will be closed).

The only exception to this is for the children of key workers from year groups who have not fully returned and their days of attendance will have been previously agreed between the key worker parents and the Senior Leadership Team.

Q: Which adults will be working with my child?

The children will be working with familiar adults on their return to school. However, your child may not be with their usual class teacher or teaching assistant. Children in years R and 1 will have at least one of their usual adults in their bubble. As the groups are now in smaller bubbles we have had to place some adults in different groups. Due to the nature of whole school assemblies, Golden Skills and play times, the children are familiar with all of the adults in school anyway.

Q: Will the children return straight back into learning?

Initially we will be supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing after all of the changes they have experienced over the last few weeks. However, we also know that children like routine; therefore, new routines will quickly be established and when children are ready, we will continue with learning experiences and developing skills in English and maths. We are currently working hard to ensure that children who are remaining at home, continue with the home learning content in the work packs.

Q: I don't have anyone to look after my other child(ren) while I drop and collect - can I bring siblings?

We appreciate that your child may need to be dropped off and picked up by different members of your household. We respectfully ask that you limit this to one adult to minimise social distancing risk. We know that many of our children have siblings who are not yet school age or are in year groups that are not yet returning to school. We appreciate that you may have to bring siblings to drop off and collect your child, but ask you to keep this to the minimum where possible, and remind you that you remain responsible for your children and social distancing when dropping off and collecting your child.

Q: Where will my child have lunch and what is being provided?

The children will be eating lunch within their bubble room. There are no hot meals being prepared on site; instead picnic style lunches which be provided which will include pizza, rolls etc. A menu showing daily options is attached. Alternatively, children can bring their own packed lunch to school.