

Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Woodloes: I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break!

After receiving many updates, re-issued guidelines, attending meetings and briefings we are now in a position to provide you with the information you need to ensure your children can make a happy and safe start to the new school year. I have attached a version of a whole school operational plan and a Covid Actions document for quick reference but these are some of the headlines:

- The need for staggered start and finish times and one-way systems have been removed. All gates will open in the morning at 8.40am
- Parents are being advised by DfE and WCC that they should continue to wear face masks when they are on school premises as this could be considered to be a 'crowded space where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet'
- Children will no longer be working in class bubbles
- Assemblies can start again
- A lunchtime hot meals service will resume in the main hall
- We would like children in Year 1 to Year 6 to continue to come to school in their PE kit on PE days.

Covid 19

As we are all too aware, Covid-19 has not gone away and the number of positive cases in Warwick currently stands at 244/ 100,000 which is a bit below the national figure which is 292/ 100,000. The national strategy has shifted to 'learning to live with' the virus and for everyone to consider their own personal responsibility. Schools have been issued new guidelines which will allow us to deliver the curriculum with fewer restrictions but we all need to remain vigilant to ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible.

We have developed detailed plans and have produced a risk assessment which looks in detail at how we safely manage a return to a more normal school day. The risk assessment has been carefully considered and signed off by the CEO of the Community Academies Trust, and is available on our website. We also have an Outbreak Management Plan which would be implemented if there was a local spike in cases which would see a return to a routine similar to the one we have operated during the summer term.

The main protective measure is to keep infection out of the school and a detailed plan, produced by WCC, accompanies this letter. If a child becomes ill during the school day we will isolate them in a ventilated space (with supervision) and they will need to be collected as soon as possible. They will then need a confirmatory PCR test to determine the appropriate course of action.

The main difference is that a class will not be closed if there is a positive test. Close contacts will be informed and asked to take a PCR test, again to determine whether or not self-isolation is required.

In school, we will follow DfE and Public Health guidelines by implementing the 4 main control measures:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Following PH advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.

Further details and plans are available on our website and I would encourage you to read all of the information carefully. However, if you have any concerns or queries then please contact the School Office, and we will do our best to help.

Uniform

It is always lovely to see the children return to school in their smart new uniforms and they always look very proud of themselves with their new, smart haircuts and shiny shoes. We are very keen to maintain high standards of presentation, as we all know this instils a sense of pride and belonging which, in turn, contributes to excellence in every aspect of school provision. We really appreciate your support with this but recognise that this can sometimes be a challenge for various reasons so, if we can help you to maintain this standard, then please let us know.

Positive Relationships

We will be talking to the children about positive relationships and staying safe when they return, two important priorities, I'm sure you would agree. With that in mind, we will be promoting 3 new school rules and we are very keen for everyone to understand this and promote it at all times. The rules are simply:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe

Nice and simple, easy to remember. It is our expectation from day 1 that everyone in our school community will model this and set this as the example, to create the best possible environment for everyone.

We are all feeling very positive and optimistic about what this new school year will bring as we return to a more normal routine. It may take a little time to settle into new systems again but I am very confident we will hit the ground running and make a great start.

There will be more information available in due course but in the meantime, have a great weekend and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday morning.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)