

Woodford Green Primary School  
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Essex IG8 0ST  
Tel: 02085041629  
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WGPS

Work Grow Play Succeed

Headteacher: PJ Prince

13/07/2020

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you of the government's plan for all children, in all year groups, to return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. They have made this decision as the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools restricted their opening to most pupils in March, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and they understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools. Although we will be opening the school to all children, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why we will put in place a range of protective measures. These include cleaning hands more often, enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and ensuring good respiratory hygiene, as well as ensuring that anyone with symptoms themselves or in their household does not attend school. In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will be a bit different when children return to school for the new academic year.

In order to make the school as safe as possible the school has carried out a health and safety risk assessment as part of planning for the autumn term and the return of all pupils. To support the school, we are asking parents to:

- ensure that anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, does not attend school - this means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you should not send them to school
- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to get a test and you should inform the school of the results of that test

Alongside this, the school will ensure we:

- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days (based on advice from their local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus
- ensure everyone at school cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this will be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser
- ensure good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhance cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- minimise contact and maintain distance, as far as possible. This will involve children staying within specified class bubbles, and through maintaining distance between individuals. The government's guidance to schools recognises that younger children may not be able to maintain social distancing at all times.

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The school will need to stagger the start and finish times for the day as this helps keep groups apart on the way to and from school, and as they arrive and leave the premises. This will not reduce the amount of time we spend teaching. We will give further details for the processes for drop off and collection before the end of term. Where possible, families are encouraged to avoid public transport, particularly at peak times, and to walk or cycle to school.

The school will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects. There may need to be changes to some subjects - such as PE and music - to ensure they can be delivered as safely as possible. We will start the autumn year by focusing on the RECOVERY aspect of our curriculum to help children to express themselves and begin the process of healing. We will look in-depth at enabling creativity, care and compassion and how kindness accelerates the healing and recovery process. We will build these themes into our Philosophy curriculum to aid critical thinking and examination of concepts.

The government has said that it is vital that children return to school - for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. They have announced that school attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. Attendance in nurseries remains non-statutory, but we strongly encourage you to take up a place for your child. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply. A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend school for this reason the school will provide remote education using google classroom.

Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means, that pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised.

Many of you will want to take a holiday over the summer period, which may involve travelling abroad. As always, parents should plan their holidays within school holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time.

The school will provide free school meals and universal infant free school meals for those who are eligible. In September, this will be as school packed lunches for the start of the term to allow children to eat their meal in their class bubbles.

The school will return to the usual uniform policy in the autumn term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).



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We aim to start breakfast and after-school club in September. As we will need to make sure these can be delivered in line with the wider guidance on protective measures they will run differently to normal and spaces will be more limited in number.

If the school experiences an outbreak, either because we have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff within 14 days, or if we see an increase in pupil or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will need to contact the local health protection team. If the local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, decisions will be made on what measures to implement to help contain the spread and the government will be involved in these decisions. In all cases, where groups of pupils need to self-isolate or where a larger restriction of attendance at school is needed, we will ensure that children's education continues remotely through google classroom.

We thank you again for all your support during these difficult times and we look forward to welcoming all children back to school in September.

Kind Regards,  
Maureen Okoye  
Chief Executive Officer