



Woodhouse Primary Academy

Woodhouse Road
Quinton
Birmingham
West Midlands
B32 2DL

Head Teacher: Oliver Wilson

Tel: (0121) 464 1769

Email: enquiries@woodhouse.uwmat.co.uk

Website: www.woodhouse.priacademy.co.uk

Wednesday 1st September 2021

RE: Return to school, from Monday 6th September 2021.

Dear parents/carers,

I wrote to you all in July with details of our return to school, which you can see here: https://www.woodhouse.priacademy.co.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/September%202021%20Letter%20to%20parents%2016_7_21.pdf

Introduction

On 2nd July 2021, the Department for Education updated its guidance as part of the Step 4 phase in the government's response to the pandemic. The Schools Covid-19 operational guidance has been updated on 17th August 2021. This document will outline what has changed and needs to happen with Control Measures, and the plans for the beginning of the school term.

"As Covid-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education – particularly given the direct clinical risks or children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September. Our priority is for you to deliver face to face, high quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health." (DfE guidance)

Risk Assessment

The school will continue to comply with health and safety law and will put in place control measures. It will continue to be a living document and be held separately to this document and updated on the school website.

Mixing and 'bubbles'

We no longer need to keep the children in consistent groups or 'bubbles'. This means that assemblies will be able to be held and mixing can happen at lunchtime and breaktime. As part of any contingency plans or outbreak management plans, the introduction of bubbles for a temporary period may need to be reintroduced to reduce mixing groups.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Schools will no longer need to undertake contact tracing. Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting Covid-19 due to the nature of the close contact. As a school we may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with Covid-19, or are a close contact of someone with Covid-19, and any of the following apply:



University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust,
Room WA109, Jerome K Jerome Building, Walsall Campus, Gorway Road, Walsall, WS1 3BD
Companies House: 08255492

- They are fully vaccinated
- They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial
- They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take the PCR test if advised to get one. Staff and children under the age of 18 years and 6 months should continue to attend school as normal. School settings will continue to work with local health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for staff and visitors. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in the school, Public Health might advise face coverings to be worn in classrooms or communal areas as per our contingency/outbreak management plan.

Control Measures

As a school we will:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone

Hand Hygiene – frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now regular practice. There will be hand washing facilities in classrooms and hand sanitiser in each classroom and communal area.

Respiratory hygiene – The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes

The school will continue to maintain a cleaning schedule throughout the school day, including regular cleaning of areas and equipment. Staff will continue to wipe down areas and equipment in their classrooms as appropriate, including PE, Music and IT.

3. Keep occupied spaces will ventilated

It is important that the school continues to be well ventilated, with windows open. The DFE will be providing some CO2 monitors so that we can monitor ventilation in school.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.

When an individual develops Covid-19 symptoms or has a positive test – Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on Covid-19.

If anyone in school develops Covid-19 symptoms, however mild, we will need to send them home and they will need to follow public health advice. Whilst the pupil is awaiting collection they will be away from their class and others, supported by a member of staff who will wear appropriate PPE.

Asymptomatic Testing

Staff will continue to test at home, twice weekly until further notice.

Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils.

Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine in accordance with guidance by PHE, they will be recorded as code X. When a child is unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of Covid-19, they will be recorded as code I (illness).

PE Days

As last year, children will not bring a PE kit into school in a PE bag, instead, they will attend school dressed in clothing suitable for PE lessons. Children will wear trainers or pumps, tracksuit bottoms (black/dark if possible), T-shirt (their school PE T-Shirt if possible) and their usual school jumper. Children do not change for PE in school, which as well



as being safer in the current climate, also provides more time to focus on PE lessons! Please can children arrive in this way on their allocated PE day.

2021-22 PE Days, Autumn Term 2021:

Reception and Nursery to be confirmed.

Monday - Year 5 and Year 3

Tuesday - Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4

Wednesday - Year 2, 4H and Year 5. 4SO Swimming

Thursday - Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6

Friday - Rainbow Room and Year 6

The following information was included in the letter sent in July, and is unchanged:

Autumn Term dates:

- School is closed for Staff Training on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September.
- **We will be fully open for all children in the new Year 1 to Year 6 (and all years in Rainbow Room) from Monday 6th September.**
- Children in Reception and Nursery will again have two visits to school in small groups over the first full week (beginning 6th September) and will be beginning school full time (or 15 hours for most nursery children) from the week beginning 13th September. Information relating to this has already been shared with families. Further information for our new families can be seen here:
<https://www.woodhouse.priacademy.co.uk/pupils/transition-to-reception>
- Full term dates are visible on the website and include a planned Inset day, when school will be closed to all children, on Monday 1st November 2020:
<https://www.woodhouse.priacademy.co.uk/news-and-events/school-events>

Arrival to school each morning:

- We will be operating a soft opening from 8:35am: your child can arrive any time between 8:35 and 8:50am. They will go into classrooms and take part in start of the day activities and routines.
- Children in Reception to Year 6 should be on site for **8:50am**, which is the official start time of school for all children in Reception to Year 6. Nursery children will need to arrive for 9am when attending a morning session.
- Parents will not need to come onto the school site in a morning, which is as we are currently operating. This is much better for our children and means that the school day begins straight into learning when children arrive.
- **Any child can use any gate**, for your convenience, but we would encourage:
 - Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 (Year 1-2) children to use the Ridgacre Road entrance where possible, where the one way system remains for ease. This enables parents of our youngest children to see them enter school and to support their arrival with our staff team.
 - KS2 (Year 3-6) and Rainbow Room children to use front gate on Woodhouse Road where possible, with siblings if necessary.
- Siblings can enter together, if there is a choice of gates, they can go in with your oldest child
- If you need to speak to a member of staff, there will be staff who can take messages at each entrance, you can call the office by phone, use class dojo, email: **families@woodhouse.uwmat.co.uk** or text the school mobile: **07950 368561** – each of these will be monitored every day.
- Class teachers will be inside to welcome their children from 8:35am each morning.

Departure from school at the end of the day:

- The school gates will be unlocked at 3pm, and parents will be able to enter school grounds from then.
- Nursery children will be collected at 3pm from the bottom of the Ridgacre Road ramp, as currently.
- Reception children will be collected at 3:10pm from the bottom of the Ridgacre Road ramp, as currently.



- KS1 children, Year 1 and Year 2, will be collected at 3:15pm from the designated area next to their classes, which will be clearly signposted in the Autumn.
- KS2 children in Year 3-6, will be collected at 3:20pm from the designated area next to their classes, which will be clearly signposted in the Autumn.
- Where you are collecting a number of children, staff will be able to keep hold of your child until you arrive.
- By keeping a small stagger to the end of the day, we will hopefully reduce congestion outside our school and help keep all children safe.
- If you need to speak to a member of staff, this may now be possible at the end of the day when you collect your child.
- All children should have been collected by 3:20pm. Wrap around care is available for parents if this is necessary.

Lunch time and School meals:

- Children will return to eating school meals in the canteen at lunch time.
- Our school menu will be improved and return to the usual high standards in school from September.
- Children can bring in a packed lunch from home as before, which will be eaten in classrooms.

Uniform, what to bring to school, what can come home from school:

- Children will wear their usual school uniform each day: green jumper, white polo shirt, black bottoms and black school shoes. As always, we have the ability to support families with uniform – you need only ask if we can help.
- On your child's PE days, the children will not be bringing additional PE kit with them, but arrive wearing it as we do now. They will wear their usual school green jumper, school PE top or similar, dark (preferably black) tracksuit bottoms and trainers. This has been a fantastic change this year, with much more time devoted to PE sessions. We will confirm the PE days with you during our first week back. **[See above for your child's days]**
- Children will not need to bring much to/from school, they only need:
 - Outdoor coat/warm outer clothing as needed (also appropriate clothing for Pitts Wood as needed)
 - A lunch box if your child is to have packed lunch from home
 - A named, re-usable bottle to drink from
 - Reading book in a book bag or similar.

Before and after school club:

- Before and After School Club will function as normal, and we can accommodate children for times between 7:30am and 6pm each day. For further details, please contact the school office.

I hope this gives you a clear indication of how we will function in the new school year. We worked so hard last year to protect all that we value as a school wherever this was possible. As always, there is the caveat that the local or national situation may affect our plans – of course you will know this as soon as we do.

Thank you for your continued patience, encouragement and understanding. These changes will take some getting used to again and may not always run smoothly - we will do everything we can. I thank you in advance for your support as we get to grips with these. We are looking forward to seeing you and your children from Monday 6th September.

Yours sincerely,



Oliver Wilson
Head Teacher
Woodhouse Primary Academy



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Room WA109, Jerome K Jerome Building, Walsall Campus, Gorway Road, Walsall, WS1 3BD
Companies House: 08255492