



Woodhouse Primary Academy

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Friday 2nd October 2020

RE: Keeping Woodhouse Safe – increased measures to protect against coronavirus (COVID-19).

Dear Parents/carers,

I am grateful for your continued support following our successful return to school in September. I have been able to share with you the highly detailed plans which we have put into place in school to keep the children as safe as possible in the current challenging coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. I am sure you are keeping up to date with the national and local news regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) and will be aware of the government's recent announcements around the rise in instances of the virus in the local community in Birmingham and the measures taken to try to keep this under control.

As a member of the University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust, our school has taken every measure possible to make school as safe as we can. I have already shared with you the many control measures in our school and you have been able to see the effectiveness of these measures in our successful response to the two positive test outcomes in our school community. Each of these cases did not result in any further transmission of the virus in school. As a trust, we have taken the decision to change our approach in respect to face coverings for adults in and around school to help further protect the school community. The following additional measures will come into effect from Monday 5th October:

- **Staff and visitors at Woodhouse Primary Academy will protect others by wearing facemasks / visors** when moving around the school, when on the entrance gates at the start and end of each day and when it is not possible to socially distance with other adults.
- Peripatetic Staff who are regular visiting teachers/specialists such as music teachers, Roots to Fruit staff or our external learning mentors will also wear face coverings when in communal areas as above.
- Currently, no non-essential visitors are able to come onto the school site for any reason.
- **Generally, staff will not wear masks or visors when with the children, as is currently the case.** As you know, staff members are only currently using masks or visors when administering first aid and when supporting children with toileting or intimate care.
- It may be the case that in the future, some vulnerable staff will wear transparent face visors in the classroom or for certain tasks in order to protect themselves and others.
- Guidance for children is unchanged. **Children should not wear face coverings in school**, although you may wish for them to wear them to travel to and from school.

Within our school, this tightening of our procedures will help to further limit any potential adult to adult transmission of the virus. These additional measures will help to protect us all.

We also have a responsibility to keep our families and wider school community safe outside of school. An area we can improve this further is at the start and end of the school day, which is the only time large numbers of people from



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different families congregate in one place together. You will be well aware of the Government rules which we currently live under in Birmingham, some of which can result in a substantial fine if broken. It is essential that you obey the law regarding face coverings and self-isolation due to symptoms or positive test results.

To protect our community, again from Monday 5th October:

- All staff will wear face coverings when talking to parents outside the school building.
- If a parent enters the school premises, they must wear a face covering – however you know that at this time, we are not ordinarily allowing parents onto the site.
- **I am requesting that all parents (who are able to) wear face coverings (either masks or visors) when bringing their children to school and collecting them at the end of the day.** Please be aware that some adults are exempt from wearing face coverings due to health conditions, including those which are not always visible to others. Please ensure you treat fellow parents with respect in this regard.
- When using public transport, including taxis, please wear face coverings as required by law.
- Parents should **follow strict social distancing** of at least 1 metre, and preferably 2 metres, and respect the personal space of other parents and their families. You can help this by **only one adult** coming to collect the children at once, reducing the numbers outside of school.
- Please limit the time you are near to school as much as possible and avoid congregating on the pavements outside the gates. You can help this by being **on time** (neither early, nor late) for the collection of your children. Once you have dropped off or collected your child(ren) please leave the area safely and swiftly.
- Please respect the highway code and practice safe and considerate driving around school. **You must not block the yellow markings on Woodhouse Road or the white markings by the crossing on Ridgacre Road** for any reason - this includes dropping off and/or collecting children. There have been a number of cases of this happening and it needs to stop please, or we risk an accident or injury to a member of our community. I do not want to have to refer further incidents to the Police.

It is vital that each member of our school community – parent, child, staff – play their part in keeping us all safe. Thank you in advance for your understanding, support and compliance.

I would like to remind you that if your child, or anyone in your family, has any of the three main coronavirus symptoms (a continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste or smell) then you must arrange for them to be tested. The whole household should self-isolate until the test result is clear and **children should not attend school**. You must not send your child to school if they show symptoms or if they, **or any other member of your household**, is awaiting a test result. If you are unsure, please show caution and speak to us first – it is better to be safe than sorry.

I have updated the school risk assessment to reflect these changes, which you can see here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ya8jzss>. This can also be found on our website, along with all details about our arrangements from the start of September 2020. You can see these here: <https://www.woodhouse.priacademy.co.uk/news-and-events/wider-opening>

I trust that you will play your part to help protect our school community and allow us to continue to remain fully open for the children. I thank you in advance for your contribution to the ongoing safety of both your child and our wider community and families. If you wish to discuss any issues raised in this letter further, or if you have any concerns or worries, please contact the school office or speak to a senior member of staff.

Yours sincerely,



Oliver Wilson
Head Teacher
Woodhouse Primary Academy

