



Woodhouse Primary Academy

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RE: Q&A for the full opening of Woodhouse Primary Academy

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your responses to our plans for the full opening of Woodhouse Primary Academy in September 2020. We know that there are a number of changes to the organisation of our school, but we will do everything we can do to ensure that this is successful for children and their families. For further information about the conditions which will enable our full opening, the government guidance for parents and carers can be seen here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yasc7m4d>

Q: How will school limit the spread of any potential infection?

A: We will follow a system of controls, as recommended by the Department for Education (UWMAT) and Public Health England (PHE)

- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have Covid-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend Woodhouse Primary Academy. It is crucial that this is supported by families at all times.
- Clean hands thoroughly, more often than usual. Children and adults will wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating. Children have access to handwashing facilities with soap and running water or hand sanitiser in each learning space.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene. We will continue to encourage children to "Catch it, bin it, kill it!" in school. Children will have access to tissues and regularly wash hands as necessary during the day.
- Ensure enhanced cleaning, including of frequently touched surfaces. We will have cleaning happening throughout each school day, with door handles and contact surfaces cleaned regularly. Toilets will be cleaned regularly with paper towels, soaps and hand gels restocked as soon as necessary.
- Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible: at Woodhouse we will do this by:
 - Keeping each class on children in a consistent class bubble of children in spaces inside school which are just used for that class.
 - Keeping class bubbles separate, including at break and lunchtimes.
 - Enabling children to arrive and leave school at staggered intervals, to avoid large groups of children or families at the start or end of the school day.
 - Staff to socially distance wherever possible, and to endeavour to work side-to-side where this is necessary.
 - Children in Year 2 to Year 6 will generally work at desks facing forwards, to limit face to face contact between children.
 - Arrange furniture and activities in EYFS and Y1 to encourage side to side play and working where possible.
 - Having children use consistent equipment, which is individual where ever this is possible. Shared equipment will be carefully cleaned if used by other class bubbles at any time, including PE equipment.

In the event of an infection being identified in the school community, we will:

- Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process: engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means that if your child develops symptoms, then you should arrange for them to get a test. You should inform the school office of the results of that test. Until a test result is confirmed, the child will have to isolate for up to 7 days start of symptoms, and for up to 14 days for family who live with the child. In the event of a negative test, this isolation can cease and the child can



return to school when well enough to. If a child is not tested for any reason, they and their families will need to isolate for the full period of 7 and 14 days respectively.

- Manage confirmed cases of Covid-19 amongst the school community, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days by school (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.
- Contain any outbreak by following advice from Public Health England. We will work closely with PHE to manage any confirmed cases.

Q: Can my child wear a mask and gloves in school?

A: Children wearing masks and/or gloves in school is not allowed. Government guidance is that masks are not necessary for children 11 years or under in any setting.

- Where masks are worn on the way to school, children will need to remove these before entering the school site. Both gloves and masks can pose a considerable hazard if worn by children for a length of time. Regular hand washing and effective following of the system of controls will be our best defence against any spread of the virus.
- Staff will only use Personal Protective Equipment in very limited situations: close intimate care for children, or in the case of a child showing symptoms in school.

Q: How will the arrival and departure work for families with children in different year groups?

A: The arrival and departure of children is the most complicated aspect of our plan and is limited by the limited access to our school. We have tried hard to protect the learning time for children as much as possible, whilst keeping the requirement to keep children apart from other class bubbles.

- In the event of a family having children in different year groups, they are to arrive with the **oldest sibling at the oldest sibling's time and gate**. The older sibling, once on site, will escort the younger siblings to the correct place to leave them with a school adult. They will leave at the **oldest sibling's** (who is not walking home alone) **time and gate**. The oldest child can escort their siblings to the correct entrance if this is necessary. There will be supervision outside for all children to ensure they safely get to their classrooms.
- Where a child needs to arrive with a sibling before their year group start time, they will come into classrooms early and be able to undertake start of the day supervised activities. Where a child needs to wait before their sibling is collected, they will wait with their teacher and be supervised until the appropriate time for collection. If a child needs to leave before their year group end time, they will have also arrived early – so will not miss out on their learning time. The most this will be will be approx. 20 minutes in each direction.
- We expect families with children in EYFS and Y1 to bring and collect those children themselves at their allotted time. As such, they would use the appropriate gate and time for these children. Older siblings could be dropped at their gate/time on the way, or access school with their EYFS/Y1 sibling.
- Children and families will be supported in the first few days so that each family can make this work for their individual needs. We are aware that this will take a little bit of time to get to grips with – it cannot fit every permutation of siblings and family needs. We will work with you to try to overcome this and make this as efficient as possible.

Once this is established, we will be able to settle into a routine which the children and their families will be comfortable with. Thank you in advance for your patience as we all learn how to work within the new constraints imposed to keep school safe.

Q: How will the drop off and pick up process work for before and after school club?

A: BASC entry and exit will be through main entrance, as it currently is. Parents will bring children to canteen outer door to sign in/out, unless staff bring the children to the gate to exit. Breakfast will continue to be provided for these children. Payment for BASC should be made online where ever possible, and we will share details of a new online payment system in September.

Q: How will break times be organised?

A: Children will go for break at a set time each morning (and afternoon for Y1 children) when they will access an area of the playground for just their class bubble. This will be the case for lunchtime play as well. Children will only be with their class bubble at these times.



Q: Can the children bring in wellies and umbrellas?

A: Children can bring appropriate outdoor clothing into school for their journey to and from school each day as necessary.

Q: What will do if the children and/or families are anxious?

A: Returning to school after a long absence is always a challenge – we will do our best to support the children and families to return to a happy, safe environment. We will be undertaking a range of transition work for children so they can quickly settle into their new classes and routines. We take the welfare of the children seriously and are able to offer specific additional support where this is necessary. Our experience of the wider opening for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in June was that once back in school, the children settled very quickly to being back in class and both children and families responded well to the changes to the school day.

Q: When will PE sessions take place?

A: For older children, these will take place in the afternoon and as such there will be very limited time following a PE session for these children.

We will work hard to ensure that our plans work in practise when our school is filled with children. We will change and adapt the risk assessments and plans as we learn each day and week. We will also respond to guidance from the Department for Education and the University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust. You may have additional questions to ask, perhaps which raise themselves over the next few weeks. The form for feedback and questions will remain live over the summer, and I will issue an updated Q&A if necessary in September. You can access the form here: <https://forms.gle/ZYt8Huz2DKiczNvD8> to ask any additional questions you may have.

Thank you for your attention and responses. We look forward to working together with you to ensure that our school is able to safely open fully in September 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Oliver Wilson
Head Teacher
Woodhouse Primary Academy

