



Woodchester Endowed Church of England (VA) Primary School

Our church school community seeks to inspire children and adults to love, learn and flourish together so we may become everything God has created us to be.

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30th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Woodchester's Road-Map for Full Return to School in September 2020

Why are all children returning to school in September?

On 2nd July the Department for Education (DfE) released guidance to schools regarding the return to school for all pupils from September 2020: [DfE Guidance](#)

The main points of this guidance state that:

- The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low
- There are negative health impacts on children if they are out of school (mental health)
- School closure has had an impact upon parents' ability to work and that in order for the economy to begin to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work
- Even with a full return to school in September, we should ensure that contingency plans are in place to be able to implement an immediate local or national lock down and for our children to have continuity in their education if this happens.

As a school, we are planning what this may look like and identifying ways in which we can ensure we keep both children and staff as safe as possible. Throughout next term, our plans will be evaluated and may be altered at any time.

Changes at school to minimise risk of spreading germs

We explained ahead of the June 1st opening that social distancing is not possible with groups of children – it is difficult enough for us as adults! The government have therefore said that distancing within their 'bubbles' is not required.

Following advice from Public Health England (PHE) the hierarchy of essential measures that we have been using at Woodchester, and will continue to use, is to:

- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- Ensure that children and adults in school wash their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Maintain enhanced cleaning programmes, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.
- Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

The aim from September is therefore to limit the contact between individuals by implementing an expansion of the 'protective bubble' approach already used successfully during the phased reopening.

'Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many' (1 Corinthians 12; 14-16)

'Love, Learn and Flourish Together'





Does my child have to attend school?

We are delighted that over 90% of those children invited to return to school full time during the phased return did so. We were also pleased to welcome other children for a small number of additional sessions. This has been a time when parents largely could choose for themselves whether or not to allow their child to return – thank you for working with us and trusting us with your child’s safety and wellbeing.

The government have outlined that attendance at school **will be compulsory from September** for all children and schools are expected to monitor attendance. Children must therefore attend school unless a statutory reason applies or they are unwell. Current guidance states that if a child or any member of their household has any of the following symptoms, they should remain at home for 14 days, along with the entire household:

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A temperature
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Guidance is available for families who are shielding by following this link - [Shielding Guidance for Families](#) .

You should therefore continue to follow our normal attendance procedures from September and inform us with a daily telephone call if you child is unwell and unable to attend school.

I am sure you are aware of recent developments around quarantine arrangements following a holiday abroad. The school will always follow government advice on quarantine times, therefore if you are considering a trip abroad please ensure that you allow for the appropriate quarantine time so your child does not miss the beginning of the new school term.

What will arrangements be for morning drop off and afternoon pick up?

From September, all children must attend school and in order to minimise mixing between groups we will continue with a staggered start and end of the day.

New arrangements from Wednesday 2nd September will be as follows:

Class	Time	Drop off point	Entry Door
Ash Class	9:00am	Front Playground Gate	Main Door
Beech Class	8:55am	Staff Car Park Gate	Staff Room Door
Hawthorn Class	8:50am	Front Playground Gate	Main Door
Juniper Class	8:45am	Staff Car Park Gate	Juniper’s external classroom door
Willow Class	8:45am	Front Playground Gate	Willow’s external classroom door

- **Our new Reception children should arrive at 9:15am on their first day, Thursday 3rd September** so it will be quieter for them. Drop off will be at the front playground gate.

Please bring as few people on the school run as possible in order to limit the number of people around school. We would like to encourage you to walk, cycle or scoot to school and bikes/scooters should be left in the appropriate storage area in the front playground. If you do need to come to school by car, please use the informal one way system around school and the green in front of school for parking. With all children now attending, these periods will feel much busier. Please take care on the pavement and crossing the road and be considerate of other parents’ parking needs.

Children who arrive late will be asked to wait until they are told it is safe to enter the building.

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Collection arrangements

Class	Time	Collection point	Exit Door
Ash Class	3:15pm	Front Playground Gate	Main Door
Beech Class	3:10pm	Staff Car Park Gate	Staff Room Door
Hawthorn Class	3:05pm	Front Playground Gate	Main Door
Juniper Class	3:00pm	Staff Car Park Gate	Juniper's external classroom door
Willow Class	3:00pm	Front Playground Gate	Willow's external classroom door

- Our new Reception children will leave at 12:15pm during week 1 and 2. They will be collected at this time from the front playground gate.

Unfortunately, parents will still not be able to come into school and they must wait beyond the school gates. When parents are dropping off and picking up they must adhere to the social distancing rules. If parents need to speak with a member of staff they may talk to the member of staff on gate duty. Alternatively, they may ring or email the office, or send a message via Class Dojo.

What should my child wear to school?

From September, full uniform must be worn including smart black shoes and long hair tied back. Wearing school uniform gives a sense of identity and belonging, and being smart encourages readiness for learning and helps us take pride in everything we do. If you still need school uniform email Mrs Davis to make arrangements admin@woodchester.gloucs.sch.uk.

Government guidance for early years and school settings continues to state that PPE (personal protection equipment) is not necessary in a school setting and, therefore, should not be worn by staff or pupils within daily practice. As previously mentioned, evidence indicates that it puts children at higher risk of spreading germs and picking up germs if they wear face masks and PPE. This is because children would find it difficult to wear face coverings comfortably and this results in them touching their face more often and thus spreading germs more easily.

What will happen for lunch?

Caterlink, our caterers, will be providing lunches to all children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Y2 and those throughout school who are entitled to free school meals. In September, this will be in the form of a packed lunch. Packed lunches can also be ordered by any other child, at the cost of the parents who can pay as usual, through ParentPay. Alternatively, children may bring a packed lunch from home. As the term progresses, we will liaise with Caterlink to consider when it might be possible to move to hot school dinners.

To ensure that there is space for all of our children to enjoy their lunch, lunchtimes will be staggered so that 'bubbles' have space to play outside. Some 'bubbles' will eat their lunch in the hall and some in the classroom but in both places hygiene procedures will be rigorously followed.

How do I stop germs transferring from home to school and back again?

The government continues to recommend that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring to school each day. Children should only bring the following essential items into school:

- A named book bag for reading books (these will be coming home again in September)
- Y5/6 children who may not have a book bag may bring in a small simple backpack for books
- A healthy fruit/vegetable snack
- Coat
- Plastic lunch box (if they are not having a school packed lunch)
- Named PE kit and pumps/daps/trainers (this should be in a PE bag and left in school)

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- Forest School clothes (when requested by the class teacher)

They should not bring any other non-essential items (such as toys, large bags etc.) into school as we will have everything they need at school, including stationery.

Please make sure your child washes their hands with soap and water prior to leaving home in the morning and as soon as they return home in the afternoon. Once home, children should change out of their school uniform and into their home clothes. If they remain in their school uniform it will need to be washed that evening before wearing again in school.

What will children be doing in class when they return?

Our curriculum during the summer term was very much focused on mental health, wellbeing and re-socialising our children and those who attended school full time were also provided with academic learning opportunities. As we move into September, we have thought about the gaps that may have emerged for our children over the lock-down period and have begun planning to identify and fill these gaps over the first few weeks of the school year, starting with reading, writing and maths objectives first.

They will however, receive their full broad curriculum from the very start of term as we understand fully the benefits of a holistic curriculum, catering for all of the children's academic, emotional and social needs within a consistent, secure and safe environment. When children have been discussing their lock-down experiences with staff, it has been evident that they have missed 'normality' and 'routine' and so we feel that September's routines and curriculum will look very similar to those of every other year. Of course, if issues arise, we are ready to support our children and families in every way we can.

Will home learning continue?

All children are expected to be back at school from the start of September and therefore there will be no need for home learning to continue.

However, we will continue to be living in a time of uncertainty regarding COVID-19 and therefore we have contingency plans in place in case of local or national lockdowns. In recent weeks, we have been working with our IT providers to set up access to Microsoft Teams. Mrs Loomes trialled this new approach towards the end of term with her class and we hope that everything will be finalised by the end of the summer holiday.

We will continue to use Class Dojo as a means of communication between parents and teachers. For any parent whose child/children are new to school, your child's class teacher will be in touch at the start of term with instructions on how to join Class Dojo.

Will there be any after school clubs?

Initially, we will not be running any after school clubs. However, we know how much children love attending our various range of clubs so this will be reviewed. It *may* be possible to introduce a small number of clubs during Term 1, but these are likely to be offered to children within a specific 'bubble' rather than to a whole key stage.

Will breakfast club be running?

Laura and Donna will be running Early Birds Breakfast Club as normal and it will continue to take place in the school hall. Sessions will be available at a cost of £5 on Monday to Thursday from 7:30am. Parents should have received an email from Laura and Donna, however, if you have any questions please email them at woodchesterearlybirds@gmail.com.

Any parents who are interested in their child attending sessions should also email Laura and Donna for further information.

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Will Woodpeckers after-school provision be available?

Bev and her team will be running Woodpeckers, however, in the first instance, sessions will be held in the school hall rather than in the playgroup building.

Any parent interested in their child attending sessions or requiring any further information should email Bev at wood.peckers@hotmail.co.uk.

We are all really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school, full time in September. We have been apart for far too long and I know that children who were able to be in school missed their friends in other year groups. There is no doubt this has been an incredibly challenging year for everyone yet our school community has worked together so well and with understanding, empathy and patience, all of which has helped keep everyone motivated on particularly difficult days. Thank you so much.

If you have any questions about the new road map for September, please email me and I will answer them as soon as I can. There has been, and continues to be, a lot to think about and it may well be that some information may have been missed.

I am revising the risk assessment that will be in place from September and more specific details will be contained within this. If any of the above plans alter, it will be in response to our ongoing risk assessments or government directives and I will inform you as soon as I am able to. Keep looking out for short-notice communication from school.

I hope you continue to enjoy your summer holiday.

My very best wishes,

Mrs Pennington and all the team.

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