



Learning To Make A Difference
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May 2020

School Phased Return - June 2020

Dear Parents,

The Government has announced that primary schools will 'possibly' open to all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children from 1st June at the earliest.

Last week they published guidance for parents and a very long document for schools which we are still trying to digest.

We don't know yet exactly how we are going to make this work, but there are things that we know for sure:

- We can only have a maximum of 15 children in a class (this may not allow for 2m distance in all of our classrooms)
- We may only be able to accommodate children in school part time (not a full week) to be able to adhere to social distancing
- These 15 children cannot mix with any other children at any point in the school day
- The children will have to sit in the same seat in their designated classroom all day and will have to use their own pencil, ruler, rubber etc. and not share equipment with others
- Outside learning as much as possible
- We have to introduce staggered start and finish times, so not all children can arrive and be picked up at the same time
- Only one adult will be allowed to drop off / pick up and no siblings. There will be a one way system introduced for drop off and pick up
- We have to make sure there are lots of hand washing opportunities
- All staff may look different to how the children are used to seeing them – they may be wearing aprons, gloves or masks at certain points of the day. This may be confusing for the younger children, so we'd appreciate your support in explaining this to them in advance of a return to school
- We won't be teaching the normal curriculum initially – we don't know exactly what this will look like at the moment
- We will continue to send home learning resources for children at home, but this may be reduced due to the increased workload of teachers working in school to accommodate the partial reopening
- We cannot share equipment e.g. pens, toys, play equipment, books etc.
- Early Years (Reception) and Year 1 classrooms will look very different. We have to remove all soft furnishings, soft toys and toys with intricate parts that are difficult to clean to reduce the risk of spreading



the virus

- Reading books cannot be shared without being thoroughly cleaned
- Lunchtimes and playtimes have to be staggered so that groups of children cannot mix and lunch may be eaten outside or in classrooms where possible
- We cannot take siblings of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6
- We will carry on providing childcare for the current families who already have children in school, these children will be kept in a separate group, as they have been since March.

This is not school as we know it, or as we want it – but we will try our best to make it as happy as possible for the children. Please bear with us as we try to arrange and finalise how this is all going to work. I will be sending out information to the different year groups as soon as possible.

I know that some families have decided they won't be sending their children back until September, given the information that I have shared with you above on how the school will run, more of you may make that decision. We have been told that as it stands currently, there are no plans to fine parents if they choose not to send their children to school for the rest of the summer term. In order to support our planning, we will be sending a text asking parents to inform us of whether their child will be attending or not by telephoning the school office.

I know that the uncertainty of the current situation is difficult for us all, but please be reassured that the safety of our children and staff remains my top priority. We will try our best to take every step to make our school as safe as possible.

The support we have received at Woden has been wonderful, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind messages and wishes – it really does mean so very much to all the staff.

Please try not to worry, in the meantime we will continue to send daily home learning for your child and keep in contact with you when we have new and updated information in these difficult and uncertain times.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Vernon

