



# Woodstone Community Primary School

Heather Lane, Ravenstone, Leicestershire, LE67 2AH  
Tel: 01530 519473 email: [wpsoffice1@woodstone.leics.sch.uk](mailto:wpsoffice1@woodstone.leics.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr Patrick Mullins  
Deputy Headteacher: Miss G Clement

*Growing together, Learning forever*

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**This letter is long but please read its full content as it is extremely important. Thank you.**

Firstly, I hope you are all fit and well. I also hope you are coping with the home learning situation plus the inevitable complications you may have with your own job/lives. Times are certainly not easy at the moment for many families.

As you know the Government made an announcement explaining that children in Year Reception, One and Six would begin a phased return to school from (at the earliest) the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Since then we have been waiting for further advice and guidance from both the Department for Education and the Local Authority – this has been filtering through on an almost daily basis!

We have put together a plan based on the advice we have so far, which has changed several times since the Prime Minister's initial announcement. We have been really mindful of the safety of both the children and all the adults working in school and it is important to remember that school will only open if the Government's '5 Key Tests' are met (this will not be communicated until May 28<sup>th</sup> – 3 days prior to the planned return) so these plans may well change in the next week or so.

However, assuming that we are opening for more children from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June we will phase the return of children in Years Reception, One and Six. All children in these year groups will be encouraged to come to school where they will then be placed into smaller groups of 15 (with other children from their normal class) and be in what the Government are calling 'bubbles'. These bubbles will not mix with other bubbles during the day including at playtime and lunchtime. We will, wherever possible, keep to the same staffing in each bubble for that particular week. However, for a number of reasons e.g. self-isolation, shielding etc, we may have some staff who are unavailable to work at certain times. This could potentially mean that your child will not be taught by their current teacher/Teaching Assistant or be in their usual classroom. It may also mean that we have to ask certain groups/bubbles not to come in if staffing levels become too low to ensure the children's safety.

Due to the age of the children, the nature of their behaviours, the number in the class, the curriculum, the toilets etc, children in our Reception Class will not be able to attend school at the same time. These children will be split into two groups with Group 1 attending all day on a Monday and Tuesday and Group 2 on a Wednesday and Thursday. You will be notified of these groups shortly but they have been created with siblings and a 'wider' return to school in mind so cannot be altered.

Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will remain at home for the foreseeable future and will continue with their home learning.

School will be closed on a Friday to all children except key worker children. This is to allow for staff to deep clean the school and give them time to plan for the children who are coming to school as well as prepare home learning for those that are not. As we expect the demand for the key worker group to increase we have introduced a booking system. We will only have a maximum of 30 key worker spaces available (please see the attached frequently asked questions – FAQs – for more details).

As far as possible groups of children (bubbles) will be kept apart and we will follow the DfE guidance to maintain as much social distancing as possible. Maintaining the two-metre distance rule at all times is

something that we cannot guarantee and this has been recognised in the guidance. However, we will be stressing to the children about social distancing as much as possible, we will also be placing desks/tables apart and we will clean surfaces throughout the day as well as ensure children frequently wash their hands.

We will be staggering the start of the day and pick-up times to avoid congestion in the car-park and on the playground. We will be operating a one-way system from the car-park to the classrooms, which will be clearly signposted. Parents will not be able to go into the cloakrooms or classrooms and they will be asked to adhere to the one-way system.

Children are encouraged to wear uniform but in line with the DfE guidance they must have clean clothes for each day. This may make it impossible to always wear uniform so they can wear their own clothes if necessary. Please try to match their own clothes with the school colours and ensure they wear sensible shoes/trainers. In line with Government guidance, children and staff do not need to wear face coverings, although staff may wear them on certain occasions, e.g. if they are administering first aid.

Our before and after school provision, Woody's, will not reopen as we will not be able to have children from different bubbles mixing.

We would expect all children in the named year groups to attend school every day available to their group as we need to maintain the stability of the bubbles/groups as much as possible. Children have been grouped according to siblings so that if we should reopen for other year groups it will be easier for parents at pick up/drop off times.

As far as possible we are trying to have as few parents as possible on site. It is preferable if children can walk to school on their own. However, for children in Year Reception and Year One that is not possible so the car-park will be open as normal but you MUST arrive at your allocated time. We would ask you to be as quick as possible dropping off, follow the signs, and leave without stopping to chat. This will allow for the next group to arrive and for safe social distancing.

If your child is walking to and from school on their own please remind them about social distancing and please ensure they do not arrive at school before or after their allotted time.

If you do need to talk to the office or your child's teacher please either ring or email – [wpsoffice1@woodstone.leics.sch.uk](mailto:wpsoffice1@woodstone.leics.sch.uk) or 01530 519473.

**Please read the attached FAQs help sheet.** This is particularly relevant for parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and key worker children but parents of children in other year groups will find them useful too. The FAQs give more details about timings, what your child will need to restart school and lots of other important information. As I said earlier, these plans will only be put into place if the infection rates begin to slow further and remain low in order to keep children and staff as safe as possible.

School will be a very different place for the children who are returning. Children may not be with their friends, lunchtimes and breaktimes, class times and teaching staff will be different to the norm but we are working really hard to make sure school is as positive as possible for the children.

I also appreciate that some of you will be feeling anxious about the children returning to school. However, we are entirely focused on the safety of our children, families, staff and the wider community here at Woodstone. We are encouraging parents of children in Reception, Year One and Year Six to send your children back to school (as indicated earlier in this letter) but fully understand that some of you may not want to do this at this particular time. There will be no consequences i.e. fines should you choose to keep your child/children at home.

Thank you for reading this rather lengthy letter and thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



P. Mullins  
Headteacher