



Woodstone Community Primary School

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Growing together, Learning forever

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Re: Return to school 8th March

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a quick letter to share the good news that ALL children will be returning to school from Monday March 8th. Teachers, parents and children have worked really hard here at Woodstone to make home learning a success but nothing compares to having a teacher/teaching assistant stood in front of you and your friends by your side. Basically, we can't wait to have the children back and although things won't quite be 'normal' it is a step in the right direction.

I will be writing to you early next week with arrangements for the safe return of all children i.e. staggered starts/finishes, one-way systems, mask wearing etc but for now here are a few pointers which might make life easier on the 8th March!

Routines are crucial to your children's wellbeing and many of you will have had to establish new ones throughout the weeks that the children have been at home with you. You may now need to adjust these but please remember any changes are best done in a gradual way.

Over the next week you may like to 'gradually' try some of the following to make sure the children are as ready as they can be for the return:

- Talk with your children about any questions they may have about coming back into school. Please emphasise that they don't need to be anxious or stressed about their learning or worry about what other children have done (or not done) at home during the lockdown
- Make small adjustments over the next week to bedtime and wake up routines and try to limit screen time (other than home learning!)
- Establish a breakfast routine – nothing sets the children up for a busy day like a healthy nutritious breakfast. Try to make the time before the school day begins as relaxed as possible by getting up in plenty of time and making time for a good breakfast. Children become very anxious/stressed if they are being shouted at for not eating fast enough or not putting their uniform on or cleaning their teeth so please allow plenty of time for these morning routines
- Many children will have become used to spending all day with mums, dads and other family members and may feel anxious and upset about being away from them. Reassure them you will be waiting to hear all about their day and really give them your full attention when they

come home - even if it is just for the first 15 minutes so they can tell you about what they have been doing. This can make a huge difference to how the children feel

- Daft as it sounds, try on school uniform... the children may have grown! This includes school shoes and PE kits. The children are expected to wear school uniform so it's important it is still comfortable
- Begin the conversation about removing nail varnish, false nails, make-up etc – none of these are allowed in school!
- Younger children may have got used to having help getting dressed/undressed – try and give a bit of time for them to practice changing on their own, putting on outdoor clothing/ fastening buttons and zips etc. These independence skills are so important and again make such a difference to your child's confidence.

If there are any changes nationally or locally I will of course keep you updated and as I said at the beginning of this letter I will write next week with specific guidance about our systems here at Woodstone to make the return to school as safe and enjoyable as possible.

Finally, on a personal note, I would once again like to say a huge thank you for your fantastic home-schooling work and for engaging with all our staff during lockdown in such a positive way. I can't thank you enough for your support and trust through what has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone. Your emails and kind words (and cakes and biscuits in some cases!) have kept us going and put smiles on our faces. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



P. Mullins
Headteacher