



# Woodsetton School

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Dear Everyone

## School update

Since writing to you last week, school has received numerous guidance documents from the DfE. Unfortunately, most of this relates to mainstream setting and very little has been issued to support special schools who cater for children with individual / complex needs.

As Headteacher of Woodsetton, I have a duty to safeguard all pupils and staff throughout the school and this, together with everyone's health, safety and wellbeing, remains my main priority.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for having supported us in gathering your views and concerns in relation to the possibility of reopening Woodsetton to more pupils after half term. As I write this letter there are still many questions and concerns that need to be answered before we can make further plans to reopen safely.

Over the last few weeks I have had many discussions with the Senior Leadership Team, Chair of Governors, other Dudley Special School Headteachers and the Local Authority.

We are currently working on our school risk assessment following the feedback provided by yourselves and staff which include many issues such as social distancing, managing cross infection and the use and procurement of PPE to name but a few. Once answers to these risks have been provided by the DfE / LA we can look at safe ways forward.

Please note that we will support all families who choose to keep their child safe at home at this present time and current information says that families will not be fined for non-attendance.

For those parents who have expressed that they would like their child to return to school, please be aware that if we are to reopen to more pupils, school will look very different to normal. Some of these changes would be:

- Children are highly likely to be in a different classroom to normal with different pupils and staff.
- We will be unable to accommodate children full time.
- We will have to introduce a staggered start and end to the day.
- Children will not use the normal entrance / exit into and out of school.
- Classrooms will look different – we will need 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 and tables will be spaced out around the class.
- Hot dinners will not be available in the first instance.
- We will not be teaching the normal curriculum and some areas of school will not be able to be used.
- At present I am unable to comment on transport arrangements.

Any provision offered will be subject to an individual pupil risk assessment that will identify the level of support / care required and recommendations will need to be put into place wherever possible if this will increase the level of risk to the pupil, other pupils and / or staff supporting them. Any provision offered will increase gradually over the course of the next few weeks and will be subject to change in light of any staffing difficulties / shortages that arise.

I hope that what I have outlined in this letter gives you a better idea of where we are at present, what changes the school will have to make and how the school will operate over the forthcoming weeks if it is deemed safe to reopen to more pupils. I know that many parents will have further questions but I would urge you to be patient as we continue to update you.

Thank you once again for your continued understanding and support with this. In the meantime, please keep safe and well and encourage your children to continue to participate in their online home learning.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Beer  
Headteacher

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