



Woodsetton School

Headteacher: Mrs K Beer

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Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to welcome you back to Woodsetton and thank you for all of your support during the COVID-19 period. I do not underestimate the challenges that parents have faced during these last few months. Throughout the lockdown period, I fully appreciate that the home learning experience will have been different for many families depending on your individual circumstances, and that at times it may have been very difficult for you and your children, however I trust that the regular contact and work that we have provided each week for our families who were not attending school found this useful and supportive. For those of you who were at home, we have enjoyed seeing the marvellous opportunities and activities that you have been doing with your children whilst they have not been attending school and look forward to hearing more about these when the children are back at school.

This week it has been lovely to be able to welcome our key stage 2 pupils back to school after many of them have not been in school for such a long time. Our children are fantastic and never cease to amaze me with their resilience and ability to take everything in their stride coping with the many changes that we as adults find hard to deal with in these present times.

Our key stage 2 children have already settled really well into their new classes and are currently learning about the new routines and what we are doing at school to keep everyone safe. It is as if they have never been away.

On Monday we welcome back our KS1 pupils, I am sure they too will settle back into school life just as quickly as our KS2 pupils.

Over the last few months, school has had much work carried out to enhance our learning environments. Outside, with the very kind, generous donation from a local charity who has supported Dudley SEN children for many years, we have transformed our adventure playground into an amazing new area which we are certain our children will thoroughly enjoy. We have also carried out extensive work updating and improving our Early Years playground and have had a play tower built in the main playground for everyone to access.

Inside school, we have had soundboards installed in the hall to reduce noise levels and echoing, one of which incorporates our logo and new class animals.



We have also merged our library into the ICT suite so as to create one resources area where research can be carried out whether that be using reference books or technology.

This has then enabled us to use the old library area to create a new classroom for Butterflies class whilst the old Butterflies class has been transformed into a new learning environment for Woodpeckers class.

Throughout next week I will be updating our school website where you will be able to see for yourself these lovely new areas and I am sure you will be as equally pleased as we are with them.

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With all of our pupils now returning to school, please be rest assured that we have continued with the many protective measures that we had in place whilst our care workers pupils and bubble pupils were in school during lock down to help minimise risk for all of our pupils and staff in school. E.g. Bubbles (as explained in my letter sent in July) are continuing to minimise the number of daily contacts with others that each pupil has, together with regular cleaning and handwashing. I have updated the FAQs document and this is attached to this letter as well as being available to view on the website.

To help us stay safe, in the recent parent questionnaire sent out before the children returned, I attached our updated Woodsetton Charter. Again, copies of this are attached to this letter and I would be most grateful if you could sign and return one copy asap.

Please remember that it is vitally important that if your child has any of the COVID-19 symptoms they do not attend the school and we will ask parents to collect their child straight away if they become symptomatic during the school day. It is also important that you keep your child at home if anyone in your household is displaying symptoms or has been tested positive. (Further information on what to do can be found on the FAQs sheet – please refer to this or contact school if you are at all concerned or have any queries.)

Can I please ask everyone to ensure that all medication including inhalers / epipens and intimate/ personal care items are returned to school immediately as these were sent home when school closed many months ago.

Also, when your child's class has PE / Forest school, we ask that they come into school ready for these activities (tracksuits/warm clothing etc) however we fully understand that if this causes undue anxiety for your child, we are happy for them to come into school in their normal school uniform and they can get changed into their PE kit / forest school clothes when at school. On forest school days, it may be useful if spare clothing is also brought in, just in case they get muddy and wet.

To help you with this, I have attached the proposed PE and forest school timetables below.

	Forest School		PE	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
Monday	Frogs			Butterflies
Tuesday	Caterpillars	Woodpeckers	Badgers	Squirrels
Wednesday	Butterflies	Hedgehogs	Caterpillars	Owls
Thursday	Owls		Woodpeckers	
Friday	Badgers	Squirrels	Frogs	Hedgehogs

As I am sure you will understand, to keep everyone safe, some of the activities that we have done in recent years need to be put on hold at this present time. For example, we are unable to partake in working alongside your child sessions, inviting parents to class assemblies etc. Currently, we also are unable to offer cooked meals at lunchtime and can only offer packed lunches for FSM and universal FSM pupils. We are, however, looking into the possibility of all pupils being able to purchase packed lunches and we will keep you informed as things change. In the meanwhile, can I please ask that packed lunches brought in from home are sent in easy to clean, hard plastic boxes or carrier bags so as to help reduce possible transmission.

In conclusion, things are constantly changing with government and LA guidance. Please note that we are all here to help. If you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will do our utmost to help.

I look forward to all the school returning to Woodsetton for a happy, safe and successful year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Beer
Headteacher

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