

24.08.2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. With just over a week to go before our return to school on Thursday 3rd September, I thought I would write to you all and just provide a few updates and the reminders about what to expect in September.

I would like to reassure you all again that our return to school in September has been based on government guidance which prioritises pupil and staff safety at all times. Hopefully, this information letter will answer any of your queries or concerns. However, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email info@wyberswood.org.uk and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as they can – particularly if you or your child is feeling anxious about September. We are here to help.

Questionnaire

Thank you to all parents/carers who took the time to complete our online questionnaire. Your kind comments were very much appreciated and will be shared with the whole staff. All staff worked really hard to respond to the ever-changing and unprecedented circumstances Covid-19 brought and judging from your comments, on the most part, we met your expectations. We have taken on board some of the constructive suggestions that were made and this will influence us positively should we find ourselves in this situation again. Thank you.

Parking

As we return to school, please be respectful of our neighbours and avoid parking across any driveways – even for dropping off. Timberley Drive has a one-way system in place at busy times so please remember to follow this. We encourage you, as much as possible, to use the car parks at the shops and walk through the cutting instead thus minimising the levels of traffic outside school. The safety of our pupils is our number one priority – thank you for your support.

Pupil Premium

If your financial situation has changed during lockdown and you are now in receipt of any benefits, please look at the attached Pupil Premium Funding letter as your child may now be eligible for this support in school. They could get free school meals, access to clubs and a virtual purse to off set the cost of school trips. The school office will help if you have any questions on this – please give them a call.

Seesaw

In September, we will be introducing Seesaw. This is a learning platform that can be used to communicate between school and home, set work and show activities completed at home. We will provide zoom training sessions for parents and children will be taught how to use the app in school. It would help us greatly if you

could download the Seesaw **family** app and create a log in ready for when we go live with this. Should we be faced with a second lockdown, Seesaw will be a valuable resource to assist with home learning.



Attendance

Attendance at school in September is statutory except if there is a medical reason or your child is on an agreed part time timetable. Our normal absence policy will be adhered to for any children who are persistently absent. If you are anxious about your child returning, please read carefully all of the information in this letter that sets out our safety measures.

School starts back on Thursday 3rd September.

Staggered start/finish times

Initially, we will have staggered start and finish times to the school day.

EYFS: 9.00am -3.10pm

KS1: 8.50 – 3.20pm

KS2: 8.45 – 3.15pm

Early Years will also have an additional plan in place for the first few days and this will be sent out separately to those parents.

Please do not come onto the school site before 8.40am. Faulding Way gate will be open but please remember to use the one-way system around the school – this will be clearly signposted. No football games before school please. As far as possible, children will enter and exit the school through their new classroom door. Staff will be around on the first day to direct you to the correct door. Classroom doors will be closed after 10 minutes. If your child is late, please bring them to the front office but we urge you to be punctual.

We ask that only one adult accompanies your child/ren to school in a morning and at the end of the day and politely ask that you do not congregate and chat on the school playgrounds.

Classrooms

All desks will be facing the front of the classroom or be side to side (except in Y1, the mixed Y1/2 class and EYFS). Every effort will be made to not have children facing each other. The children will have their own writing and commonly used equipment. All other classroom equipment will be for the sole use of their 'bubble'. Bubbles are specified groups of children that can be easily isolated if we needed to. We currently have six bubbles as follows: EYFS, KS1, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Children can mix freely within their bubbles but they will be encouraged to socially distance as much as they can. Movement around school will be kept to a minimum so all assemblies will be held in their bubble groups or via zoom. Each bubble will have the same consistent staff with them as far as possible.

We ask that you send limited equipment in from home please and ask that bags/rucksacks are not over-sized. A small bag is all each child will need. PE kit will be kept in school for the half term so it is not coming and going between school and home.

At least one window will always be open in each classroom to ensure good ventilation so please ensure your child has their sweatshirt as rooms may be slightly cooler than normal.

Handwashing

Great emphasis will be put on the importance of handwashing throughout the day. As a minimum, children will wash their hands on entry to school, after playtimes, before and after they eat and at any other times in the day where the teacher deems necessary.

Children will also be taught the importance of catch it, kill it, bin it when coughing or sneezing.

There are numerous hand gel stations around the school and in each classroom too.

Cleaning

We will have a cleaner on site throughout the day to continuously wipe down surfaces, handles, toilets etc. and to ensure bins are emptied regularly.

Lunchtimes

EYFS and KS1 will still have access to hot dinners and have their lunches in the dining rooms. Initially, KS2 will eat their lunches in their classrooms, or outside if the weather is fair. As a result, if you wish your child to have a school dinner in KS2, the only option available will be sandwiches in the first instance. This will be reviewed as soon as we feel we are able to.

Lunchtimes and playtimes will also be staggered to greatly reduce the numbers of children outside together and they will only mix with children from their bubble.

Water Bottles

We have purchased new water bottles for every child in school. These will be kept in school and washed daily. Each child will have their own NAMED bottle for their exclusive use. Every class also has water bottle carriers so that bottles can easily be taken outside on hot days. This will mean you no longer need to send in a water bottle for your child.

PE

Children will access PE lessons as normal, but equipment will be wiped down between classes. We will also have some classes being taught by our new sports coaches and they have been fully briefed on our safety measures. Children are expected to wear the school P.E. kit in order to ensure safe participation during sessions. Please ensure they have full indoor and outdoor kit.

Indoor sessions:

- Black shorts
- White t-shirt
- Plimsolls

Outdoor sessions:

- Black shorts
- White t-shirt
- Plain Sweater and Tracksuit bottoms are allowed during the winter period
- Trainers

Curriculum

A full and rigorous four week catch up programme has been planned for the core areas of reading, writing and maths. Our new extended book-led curriculum will be introduced within the first few weeks and we are very excited to start on this. Information about our new curriculum will be uploaded on to the website in due course and we will let you know when it is available to view. A big emphasis will be put on mental health, nurture and re-establishing learning behaviours. We have a brand-new nurture room that will be accessible to all children on a rota.

Reading Books

Reading books will be sent home as normal and we ask you to practise with your child at home as much as possible. We also have brand new reading books throughout the school which we know the children will love. When books are returned to school, they will be quarantined for 72 hours before being put back out on the shelves. The children have also all got lovely new reading records. Staff will sign these in school but not on a set day so as not to be collecting them all in at once.

Meet the teacher meetings

Ideally, we would have invited all parents in during the first two weeks for a meet the teacher meeting. However, this will not be possible so we will now deliver these via zoom. Information on when these will be sent out in September with a link.

Public Transport

If your child uses public transport to get to school, please let us know so that we can ensure they have somewhere to store or dispose of their mask.

Testing

We ask that all parents/carers and staff fully engage with the test and trace process. Full information regarding testing can be found on our website and regular reminders will be sent out.

PPE

Staff will not be wearing PPE unless part of their normal routine in school or in the unlikely event of a child displaying Covid symptoms and the 2m distance cannot be maintained.

Uniform

Children will be expected to be in full school uniform including the correct footwear.

- Black/Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- White blouse, shirt or polo shirt
- Wybers Wood sweatshirt or similar blue plain one
- Sensible black shoes

A polite reminder too that earrings will no longer be permitted in September. The only jewellery permitted is an **analogue** watch.

Reception Area

The reception area will remain closed for the time being unless an appointment has been made. Please call the office on 311081 or email info@wyberswood.org.uk if you have any queries.

Out of School Club

Our on-site out of school club will be re-opening in September. They are open from 7.30am each morning and until 5.45pm each night. Please contact Tracey Franklin directly if you require a place on 07973 406605

Visitors

All visitors and contractors will be risk assessed and can only come on site with an appointment.

Class Names

All classes have a new class name linked to a famous local arts person. In the first week back, the children will be researching their celebrity and writing letters to them. The arts will be a big focus next year and we have lots of exciting plans.

Clubs

For the first half term, there will be no clubs but we hope to introduce these after October half term (or sooner if guidance changes). The only exception will be a sports club run by our sports coaches but this will only be available to set bubbles in the first instance.

Changes

During the summer, there have been some changes in school. Much of the lighting has been upgraded and our two internal quad areas have been completely renovated. The whole of the KS1 area has also been repainted. They are all looking amazing and will provide wonderful learning spaces for our children both indoors and outdoors. As things settle down a bit, we will be looking for parent volunteers with 'green fingers' to help develop the quad areas 😊

Work to extend the dining room has just started and this will continue in to the new term. However, the area they are working on is isolated from the rest of the school so should bring very little disruption. Once completed, the KS2 dining room will be much bigger, much quieter due to sound absorbing panels and will provide a wonderful food technology area.

Please look out for photos of the changes in September on Twitter and in the next newsletter.

I would like to say a big thank you to the cleaning team especially and all the teachers and TAs who have helped get the school ready for September – it has been a huge task with all the building work that has been going on but it is now a wonderful environment for the children to learn in.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We can't wait to welcome all of our children back and return to teaching and learning! See you all very soon 😊

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rouse

Delta Academies Trust

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