



## The Woodlands Federation

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly I would like to thank you for all your help and support over the past 5 months, it has been an ever changing and difficult situation and we have missed everyone so much. It has been so lovely to see all of your home learning and things that you have been getting up to at home. The children, families and staff have worked so hard over these past few months and I'm sure that you agree that everyone needs a good rest before September.

As our Summer Term comes to an end, I wanted to write to thank you for everything you have done this year and also let you know the plans for the Autumn Term. We are delighted that the school will be able to open for all pupils from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The government has now released full details of how all children and staff will return safely and I would like to summarise some key points below. Your child's health and wellbeing are our number one priority – we care deeply about each and every member of our Talbot family and want to return to exciting learning within a school that is as safe and nurturing as possible.

Mrs Holden and Mrs Grocott have done a brilliant job in setting up the classrooms and cannot wait to welcome you back. We are now able to set up in a continuous provision style in the Early Years which is also going to help get back to normal.

We are pleased that we are now able to offer our usual Wrap Around Care hours from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. If you require Before and After school provision could you contact Mrs Everill in the office and she will book you in.

Below, are some of the changes for the new school year in September:

- The school will be running as a bubble which will mean that children will be able to arrive and leave school together and will be able to have playtimes together. This will help you as parents dropping off and picking up if you have several children in school. It will also be a massive asset to help the children resocialise with their friends and feel part of the school family again. We will however be helping them to still socially distanced as much as possible to help reduce potential transmission of germs.
- To help reduce transmission further, whilst in the school building each class will be a mini - bubble and will not mix with other classes. Staff will however now be able to move between classes within the guidelines of our Risk Assessment.
- The Cherry/ Willow classes are now able to run as a more informal learning bubble, as it was before the school closures with the exception of a few harder to clean resources removed.
- The Maple class will have some transition where it will be less formal as we are aware that children moving into Year 2 in September have missed out on a huge amount of their Year 1 experience and it would be unfair to

expect them to sit formally at tables for full lessons straight away. The guidance acknowledges that a 'one size fits all' approach will not work due to the diverse nature of school settings and that schools should be assessing any gaps from the previous Year Groups Age Related Expectations for learning and plugging these gaps.

- In all of these learning bubbles strict hygiene recommendations will still be in place as per government guidance.
- Year 3/4 will be seated in rows facing forwards which has been received positively by the KS2 children in school currently.
- There will be rigorous procedures in place in order to ensure that pupils clean their hands when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating.
- There will be more frequent cleaning of rooms/shared areas that are used by different groups.
- Children and staff alike will be expected to clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- We will operate good respiratory hygiene through the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.
- Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.
- At playtimes and lunchtime, the different bubbles will mix but we are very lucky to have various outside areas where groups can be outside at the same time and easily be spaced.
- We will be offering school dinners and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are still entitled to a free school meal. We have seen the children in school during lockdown enjoy the school meals served on site and try new things and we would encourage you to try the schools meals to help support the school meal service we have. However, if you feel that your child will need to bring a packed lunch in September we will be able to accommodate this too.
- We will be going back to wearing full uniform in September and you can now get any uniform you require for the new term from Brigade Clothing – the link for this site is on the school website. The latest Government Guidance states that from September there will be no need for uniform to be cleaned more than usual.
- On days that the children have PE we are for the Autumn Term going to ask that they come to school in their PE kits to reduce the amount of clothing on tables and around the class. We will be going outside as much as possible for PE and so the children will need black, navy or grey jogging bottoms if it is cold. They may wear a school sweatshirt or a black, navy or grey jogging top. Class teachers will be letting you know when the PE lessons or Forest school will be.
- We will be able to send home reading books again and are setting up weekly packs of books so on return they can be cleaned and quarantined.
- We will be sending homework tasks to support home learning but will be doing this as much as possible electronically – this will reduce potential transmission risks but also our carbon footprint.

I am pleased to let you know that we will welcome the children back on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 8.50am. Children will be greeted by a member of staff in the playground. We are aware that parents will have to wait within the school gates when the whole school are back so ask that you observe social distancing whilst waiting and leave the school grounds as quickly as possible to avoid unnecessary congestion/ contact. Children will then go straight around to the classroom door, where another member of staff will collect them and help them to clean their hands and store their belongings safely. We will come out to the school gate at the end of the day – 3.30pm as usual and ask that you observe social distancing whilst waiting at the end of the day. During this time could we ask that children do not climb on or use the equipment on the playground and wait with you until all siblings are collected.

We ask that children only bring what is necessary to school – Book bag (with reading diary and book in only), coat (gloves and hat if needed), water bottle and lunch bag if required. Can we ask that all items and uniform are clearly named to help keep belongings safely stored and returned to the correct child if misplaced?

We respectfully ask that parents and carers arrive to school on time and pick up promptly and help to remain socially distanced at the gate.

The government's scientific advice has stated that there is not a need for in-class social distancing for primary age pupils. We are pleased about this as younger children do find social distancing difficult. Teachers and support staff are advised to minimise the time they are closer than 1 metre to any child, and remain 2 metres away from colleagues as much as possible. We respectfully ask parents to keep 2 metres away when approaching staff and therefore, meetings in school will need to be by appointment only. We will be making sure that everyone is set up on Class Dojo in the Autumn Term so that we can communicate electronically as much as possible. If you are not set up yet can you please let the school office or your child's class teacher know so we can get that sorted for you. You can also phone or email the school office.

We will be involved in the NHS Test and Trace system and swift action will be taken if required. Your child's safety is of paramount importance to us. Please trust us when we say that we will do everything we can to minimise risks in school. I can also let you know that face coverings in school will not be needed in schools as per Public Health England advice.

We will not be able to hold full school assemblies to begin with but will be looking at ways for classes to link remotely to be able to link together for sharing times.

The Government Guidance for attendance from September reverts back to normal and therefore parents have a legal duty for their child to attend school unless unwell or exceptional circumstances mean it is not possible. To this end our regular attendance policy will be reinstated as per county guidance.

You have all been in the staffs thoughts throughout this time. We have all missed you dearly, and hope that we can all return to school safely in September.

The wellbeing of the children will remain at the forefront of our plans for September. Good mental health underpins successful learning and as we make our journey through the Autumn Term we will be supporting a healthy mindset for everyone. We want every child to fulfil their potential in all areas of school life and will be here to offer any extra help and support that may be needed to reach that goal.

If your child has SEN your class teacher will be discussing any additional support that we can put in place to help in September with the additional measures in school. Also if your child has a health condition such as asthma or allergies staff will be asking you to complete an updated Health Care Plan to ensure that we have all measures in place to care for them safely.

If you have any further questions or feel that a chat with a member of staff would be helpful you can get in touch with us. We are mindful that it has been and still remains a difficult time for families and want to support the transition for the children but also yourselves as parents back into a normal routine. Get in touch with us if we can help or support in any way.

We are looking forward to the Talbot Family being whole again,  
Have a great Summer,

My very best wishes,

Mrs Helen Wright.  
Executive Head Teacher.