

Wooden Hill Primary and Nursery School
Staplehurst • Wooden Hill • Bracknell • Berkshire • RG12 8DB
www.woodenhill.bracknell-forest.sch.uk



Tel: 01344 421117
Email: secretary@office.woodenhill.bracknell-forest.sch.uk

Headteacher
Mrs Joanna Lagares

24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Full Return to School 8th March 2021

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced that all children will return to school on 8th March. We have had some questions from parents about this return and I hope that this letter will answer any that you have about the full return to school on 8th March. Last night, the following guidance for parents was published, which should answer your questions.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964120/210223_Parents_Guidance_vF.pdf

I have tried to summarise the answers to the main questions that many parents may have and specifically thinking about returning to Wooden Hill School as well as some of our own top tips for preparing to return.

Does my child have to attend school?

Attendance at school from the 8th March is mandatory. "*Mandatory attendance means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly if they are registered at one.*"

A household member is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and is shielding. Can I keep my child at home to do home learning?

Unfortunately not, as attendance is mandatory for all children, unless the child is CEV and has received a shielding letter. The school will not provide home learning for children not attending unless isolating due to positive test result in the household.

How will you keep my child safe in school?

We have a robust risk assessment in place (this is available on our website) and this will be updated in the next couple of weeks to reflect the latest guidance and local infection rates. It has been written and reviewed with the staff and governors and all the staff and contractors follow this risk assessment. In addition to this, staff are able to participate in the twice weekly lateral flow testing which can help identify asymptomatic cases within the school staff.

But what does this mean at Wooden Hill School?

For the remainder of this term (up to Easter), school will look the same as it did before Christmas. Children will stay in class bubbles and will not mix inside (although there may be some small groups in some year groups where 2m can be maintained between the children in classes). Outside, children will be able to play non-contact games with children from the year group during morning play and lunch play. Children will wash or sanitise their hands often and the surfaces in the classrooms will be cleaned

LEARNING, **Growing** & Achieving Together

regularly. Wherever possible, children have their own set of resources and resources that are shared are regularly sanitised and cleaned. Staff will wear masks when outside of their classroom or office. Children do not need to wear masks and will not be able to wear masks in the school building.

Will the timings of the school day be the same?

Yes, we will have the 'windows' for drop off and collection in the morning and afternoon and these will remain the same and are in place to minimise the numbers of people on the school site at any one time. Drop off is between 8.30am and 8.55am and collection is between 2.45pm and 3.15pm – please use the full window and avoid coming at the very beginning or very end of the windows. If your child's teacher has asked to you drop off or collect at a certain time, please continue to use this time.

Do I need to wear a mask when on the school site?

Yes please. Please also ensure that you do not stop to talk to other parents on the school site or congregate on Staplehurst.

Can I talk to my child's teacher to pass on information when I drop off or collect?

I'm afraid you can't stop to talk to your child's teacher at drop off or collection at this time. This is to keep the flow of people moving around the school site, following the one-way system, but also to limit the number of contacts that our staff have. They will still be on the door to welcome your child so if you have a message for them, please either send an email to the year group email address or indicate to the teacher that you would like them to give you a quick call when they get a chance. Until Easter (when it will be reviewed) there are no visits on site, so all meetings with staff will remain virtual.

Are school dinners the same?

Yes. From the 8th March children will have lunches in the hall, in the separate pods that we have created and will have the same timings as before Christmas. These are staggered as children are not mixing in the hall or outside in the playground. Ordering school dinners remains the same.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes, it is very important that all children wear the full and correct school uniform including school shoes and this includes children in Nursery. Trainers and boots are not permitted and large or colourful bows or hair accessories are also not permitted. Socks and tights should be plain; grey, black or white. Please make sure that any nail varnish or temporary tattoos are removed before coming to school. It may be worth checking now to see if school uniform still fits so that you have time to get replacement items before your child returns to school. We don't have a start or end date for when children can wear summer uniform so if you do need to replace items and the weather is mild you may want to consider shorts or summer dresses (our summer dresses are blue checked dresses). I also expect that shops will sell out of school uniform too, as parents prepare for the return to school, so I would strongly advise trying to organise this quickly! If M&S do run out, or don't have your child's size of the logo'd jumpers, polo shirts or cardigans, plain royal blue jumpers or cardigans are perfectly acceptable as are plain white shirts or polo shirts.

Are there any other things that I can do to prepare for my child coming back to school?

It might sound really minor, but we would strongly suggest that you start sleep / wake training from now, so that it isn't a shock to the system when they need to get up for school! As part of this I would recommend restricting the use of electronics in the evening and remove any devices from bedrooms to help promote a good sleep routine. We would also strongly suggest that you also begin to alter lunch and snack times; especially if your child is in years 5 or 6 as they don't have lunch until 1pm. We would also recommend bringing an extra fresh fruit or vegetable snack for the morning break as children are often hungry by playtime. Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still get a fruit snack but we still recommend bringing an extra one for the first week or so. Our full remote learning offer is still in place so I would strongly recommend that you try to keep the pace of learning up, otherwise, the transition back in to school will be even harder. We have noticed that children are doing less in the afternoons since half term so would strongly recommend that the topic lessons in the afternoon are completed as well as attending the afternoon meets and story times. This will help them

get used to working until 3.15pm again as well as supporting the social aspect as they transition back to school.

My child is anxious about returning, how can we help them?

Between now and the 8th March spend time talking to your child about what worries them and how they are feeling. You probably won't be able to solve the anxieties or worries as often anxieties or worries are feelings but do reassure your child that you understand and that you are listening. Please do also let your child's teacher know too what they are worried about (emailing the year group email address is probably the best way). This week teachers have spent time discussing the children who we know are probably nervous or anxious about returning and what support we are able to offer children as they return to school. Encouraging your child to attend the meets next week will really support any social anxieties that they may have and enable teachers to touch base with those children who are more anxious about returning.

My child has really missed their friends. Will they be able to play?

Yes! In September we adapted our curriculum so that it was based around recovery. This was because some children had been away from school for 6 months. This full curriculum change is not necessary this time but instead, we will ensure that our curriculum allows children time to collaborate with their peers and rebuild trust, friendships and social skills.

Will my child be able to get extra help with their learning?

Our teachers know your child's learning needs the best and so they are the best people to help them. Where necessary, children will be supported by working in small groups with a specific learning focus, led by both class teachers and support staff.

Are there any changes?

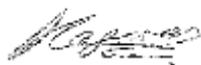
In January we welcomed Mr Clarke and Miss Rees to the teaching team. Mr Clarke will be mostly based in Year 6 but will also be doing a project with years 3 and 4. Miss Rees is job sharing with Miss McGowan in Chaffinch Class which means that Miss McGowan will be teaching PE once a week to years 1-6. We also welcomed Mrs Otter to the support staff team in January and when children return we will be welcoming Mrs Mercer to the team who will be supporting a child with their learning. We also have a number of new children joining Wooden Hill who I am sure will be given a very warm welcome.

Could my child's class get sent home?

If there is a positive case of a pupil or member of staff, anyone who has been identified as a close contact will be sent home and asked to isolate, so this is a possibility. As previously, you must have a family plan in place so that there is someone available to collect your child at short notice, should your child be required to isolate. To help us keep our school open and our school community safe, please do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in your household or support bubble, have any of the 3 symptoms (a new continuous cough, a temperature or a loss or change to the sense of taste or smell) and arrange a test. If your child is not able to come to school because they are isolating but are well, they are expected to complete the remote learning provided. Please also help us stay safe well and open by following the rules set out by the government and avoid mixing and wearing masks when required.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming you all back on the 8th March.

Yours sincerely,



Joanna Lagares
Headteacher