



WOODHALL SCHOOL

www.woodhall.herts.sch.uk



Woodhall Lane, South Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD19-6QX.

Telephone: 0208 428 3447

Email: admin@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

'BACK TO SCHOOL' ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARCH 2021

When the children return to school next week, we will be operating staggered drop-off and pick-up times (as we were before lockdown) in line with government guidance. We understand that this may not be easy, particularly for families with several children at school, but we need to take all recommended precautions. Please bear with us; your patience will be much appreciated by staff.

Drop-off and pick-up times:

Year group	Drop off	Pick up Monday-Thursday	Pick up Friday
Nursery	Any time between 8.40-9am	12pm	12pm
Reception	Any time between 8.40-8.50am	3pm	2pm
Year 1	Any time between 8.30-8.50am	3.10pm	1.45pm
Year 2	Any time between 8.30-8.50am	3.10pm	1.45pm
Year 3	Any time between 8.30-8.50am	3.20pm	1.50pm
Year 4	Any time between 8.30-8.50am	3.20pm	1.50pm
Year 5	Any time between 8.30-8.50am	3.30pm	2pm
Year 6	Any time between 8.30-8.50am	3.30pm	2pm

Children will be met at the school gate and will then walk around to their classroom. Year 5 and Year 6 children will use the main entrance door to go up to their classrooms. School adults will be situated at key points, with Mr Fleming on the main entrance gates. Either Sue or Nikki from the school office and myself will be outside to deal with any queries or answer questions. All hygiene precautions will be followed e.g. adults on the gate will wear masks, children will wash their hands on coming into school, adults treating injuries requiring first aid will wear PPE etc.

Please remember that all families MUST follow current guidelines around socialising. Children should **not** be taking part in play dates or sleepovers at each other's houses. Should a child tell us that this is happening, **we may need to pass the information on** as part of our safeguarding procedures, as it may

pose a risk to other children and staff members. Please follow the rules so that we can keep each other as safe as possible.

Nursery/Reception (Early Years)

Nursery and Reception children will use the separate entrance on Woodhall Lane, where school adults will be waiting for them.

Playtimes

Playtimes will be staggered, with separate 'bubbles' (Years 1 & 2; Years 3 & 4; Years 5 & 6) using different play areas.

Lunchtimes

Children may continue to bring a packed lunch in from home or have a school lunch. Years 2-6 will continue to eat lunch in their classrooms.

Staffing

As you may be aware, some of our staff fall into a 'high-risk' category and will need to continue to shield until further notice. Mrs Bilenkyj (who is expecting a baby) will continue to work from home. Our Early Years class will be taught by a very familiar face at Woodhall; Mrs Sieben. In Year 1, we are hoping that Mrs Roby will be able to return to school after the Easter holidays (and Mrs Roby is desperate to come back!). For the remaining three weeks of the spring term, Mrs Biedul will teach Year 1. Please continue to email Mrs Bilenkyj or Mrs Roby with any questions/concerns.

QUESTION TIME...

Can my child have their own water bottle in school?

Yes - every child will need to bring their own water bottle from home, labelled with their name. Water bottles must be taken home each afternoon to be washed.

Can my child bring their own pens in from home?

No, all equipment will be provided in school. However, children will need to bring a school bag/book bag, to carry reading/homework books etc.

Can my child bring their bike/scooter into school?

Children can ride scooters to school. If you are able to take the scooters home, that would be great. If not, scooters can be left **at your own risk** either outside Early Years (Nursery/Reception children) or walked around to the storage rack by children in Years 1-6.

If drop-off/pick-up times are staggered, will the children miss out on learning time?

No. We have worked timings out, through making lunch time a little shorter, for instance, to ensure that children do not miss any of their allocated learning time.

Will school trips still take place?

No, not until further notice. Children will continue to take part in enrichment activities based in school.

Will Easter events take place?

Most will! All children will be designing and making their own Easter bonnets in school. We will hold our 'Eggs Factor' talent show; either via Zoom with bubbles joining remotely or outdoors.

Unfortunately, there will not be our usual Year 3/Year 4 production this year, as there will not be enough time when the children return to organise this. We hope that Years 3 and 4 will be able to do something in the summer term instead.

What happens if parents are not socially-distancing from one another?

We will open the car park area (to pedestrians only) at pick-up times to give parents more room to spread out. **The government advises that families should keep a 2m distance. If parents are not following social-distancing advice, we will ask them not to wait on school grounds.**

I have more than one child at Woodhall. How will this work at pick-up time?

Younger siblings in Years 1-5 will remain in their classrooms with an adult and be collected by their older siblings on their way out of school. For example, if you have a Year 4 and a Year 2 child; the Year 4 child would collect the Year 2 child and they would both come out of school at 3.20pm.

Younger siblings in Reception will be brought up to the main school entrance by their school adults so that parents can collect all of their children together. Children in Reception with no older siblings can be collected as usual from the Early Years entrance.

My child is in Year 5/Year 6. Are they allowed to walk to/from school by themselves?

Year 5 & 6 children will be allowed to walk to school by themselves once parents have completed a permission form. Until the form is completed, we cannot let your Year 5/6 child leave school on their own.

What happens if I have to drop my Nursery/Reception child off as well as older siblings?

Please arrive at school in plenty of time to drop all of your children off. Drop your eldest children first before coming to drop younger siblings off.

What happens if I need to speak to my child's class teacher?

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to have informal conversations with class teachers as has previously been the norm. If you need to talk to class teachers, please email them to arrange a mutually convenient time. Please bear in mind that this may not be immediately after school, as teachers will need to make sure that each child in their class has gone home safely. You can always email your child's class teacher. Thank you.

Will my child have to wear school uniform?

Yes. Children need to come back to school in full school uniform, which includes a pair of school shoes or completely black trainers (no coloured logos please, no white logos or symbols).

What about PE kits?

On days that your child has PE, they should come into school wearing their school PE kit: a plain white t-shirt, plain black shorts or joggers, trainers and a warm top. School PE kits are available from Mapac (website: <https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/woodhallprimaryschoolwd196qx>)

Can my child wear a face mask in school?

If you would like your child to wear a face mask in school; you must let the class teacher know via email. The child must keep the mask on throughout the day, only removing it to eat lunch. If you want your child to wear a mask, they must wear it every day rather than picking and choosing days.

Can my child bring a mobile phone to school?

If your Year 5 or 6 child walks to/from school on their own (and we have received a permission form for this), then they may bring a phone. When they get to class, children will put their phones into sealed bags. Phones will be stored safely until they are collected at home time.

What happens if my child feels unwell at school?

If any child feels unwell, the usual procedures will be followed i.e. they will be sent to Sue in the office. Where your child is sick, has a high temperature etc. we will ask you to come and collect your child from school immediately. Occasionally, especially with bumps and injuries, we might ask you to come to school and make a judgement call about your child's wellbeing. Should your child have been showing any COVID-19 symptoms, we will ask that they be taken for a test.

I still feel very anxious about COVID-19. Do I have to send my child to school?

From March 8th, all children have to be back at school. We will, of course, offer support to parents/carers who are feeling anxious about this (support is likely to be via our Family Support Worker, Caroline) and children will be supported in school through a comprehensive 'recovery', or transition curriculum with particular time given to social, emotional and mental health issues. Children have missed a great deal of learning during the lockdown, and it is absolutely vital that they are back in school where we will be implementing our 'recovery curriculum'. It is also very important that they see their friends and teachers, and can begin to build those relationships again after another long period away.

We will be following our usual attendance systems which will include letters/emails home where low attendance is causing concern (which may result in referral to the County Attendance Officer).

The government are currently using a 'track and trace' system to alert anybody and advise that they should self-isolate. If you have been alerted and are required to self-isolate, please let us know.

If you need further advice on attendance, please refer to the updated attendance guidelines available on the school website or contact Mrs Cooper Battersby (ebattersby@woodhall.herts.sch.uk).

My child usually has extra adult support in school. Will this still take place?

Children who receive extra learning support will continue to do so, as specified by the class teacher. Some external agencies e.g. the Educational Psychologist will continue to work remotely for the foreseeable future. If you have a meeting with any of these agencies, we will make sure that you have received and are able to access appointments.

If your child received extra ROWAN (Reach-Out Well-being And Nurture) support from Mrs Payne or Mrs Malin; this will continue to take place for some children when they return. Most children will remain in class, as it is crucial they are given the opportunity to be with their classmates and build those relationships back up again. Full ROWAN intervention will resume after the Easter holidays. If you have questions or concerns about this, please contact our SENCo Mrs.Raithatha at sraithatha@woodhall.herts.sch.uk. Thank you.

Will Year 3 children be going swimming?

Year 3 will not start their swimming lessons immediately. As you know, when swimming lessons do start again; they will be at the pool's new location (part of The Centre). We will review swimming arrangements for the summer term; depending upon national Covid restrictions.

Can my child use their own hand sanitiser in school?

Children will not be able to use their own hand sanitiser in school. Hypo-allergenic hand wash and sanitiser are available in every class and at other key points, and children will be asked to wash/sanitise their hands as part of their regular routine. If your child has a particular allergy, please speak to Sue at the gate. We may ask you to bring a letter from your GP, as having extra bottles (hard surface areas) in the classroom brings an infection risk.

Will school be offering clubs?

We will be offering lunchtime/after-school clubs, although these will be bubble-specific (i.e. we can only have children from one bubble per club session). As usual, we will send emails with further details as appropriate.

THE 'RECOVERY CURRICULUM'

From Monday 8th March until they break up for the Easter holidays, all of the children will be taking part in what we call a '*recovery curriculum*'. The second lockdown has been extremely challenging for many of our families. Most children have missed nearly a whole term of school (after having only been back for the autumn term 2020). **At Woodhall, we know that social, emotional and mental well-being are crucial in order for children to be ready to learn. This has always been a key part of our approach to education.** If a child is worrying about things, they will not be able to focus on academic learning.

Although many children are really looking forward to coming back and being with their friends, they will still be anxious. We took a very careful and considered approach to our curriculum when the children returned last September, and we will be doing exactly the same this time. For the first 3 weeks, **mornings** will be spent on maths and English; revising basic skills (depending on their age and ability, children will focus on areas such as phonics, 1:1 and group 'guided' reading; sharing a class text; number bonds, and basic maths operations) as well as introducing new learning.

During the **afternoons**, children will be taking part in a range of focused activities broadly based on one of the following areas:

- Relationships and friendships
- Community issues
- Anxiety and worries
- Emotions
- Hygiene
- Self-esteem and positivity
- Loss and bereavement



Focus may be linked to a particular curriculum subject e.g. exploring emotions through art; or finding out about the history of public health in history. Again, this will be appropriate to age.

As a school, we will have a different focus for each of the 3 weeks, which will enable children in every class to share learning experiences as a whole school community.

Week beginning Monday 8th March: 'LET'S COUNT!' The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the households in England and Wales. It is very important as it helps to plan and fund public services in local areas. The next census takes place on Sunday 21st March 2021. Children will be taking part in some exciting lessons linked to the National 2021 Census. Areas of learning might include: the NHS and the census; equality, representation and the census; life in the past and changes in the population.

Week beginning Monday 15th March: WOODHALL'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE (SCIENCE WEEK). This year, our theme is vaccination. What a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about the history of vaccination given the current circumstances! Classes will take part in lots of exciting activities connected to the theme.

Week beginning Monday 22nd March: EASTER BONNET DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY! Each class will spend time this week designing their own Easter bonnets made from recycled materials (provided by school). They will focus on age-appropriate DT skills in order to construct their bonnets. We will end the term with a socially-distanced parade...with plenty of photos to share with you!

Class teachers will be emailing you next week with further details.



Back to School...

As we approach the full opening of school, it is important that children get back into familiar routines such as bedtimes. The brilliant NHS resource 'Every Mind Matters' is well worth a look. It contains some excellent tips for parents to support children with returning to school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/back-to-school-coronavirus-covid-19/#custom-2column-share-shelf>



Term dates

Here are the dates for our 3-week spring term (!); and for the start of the summer term. Further dates for the summer term will be sent home after the Easter holidays.

Date	Event
Monday 8 th March	Back to school...hurrah!
Monday 15 th March	Raffle tickets on sale from today for children's Easter egg raffle.
Wednesday 17 th March	St.Patrick's Day: dress in green, white and gold (or a combination of any of those colours!) No charge; this is just for fun.
Friday 19 th March	Red Nose Day. 'Tell us a joke' school competition. Winner from each class will go through to the afternoon final.
Thursday 25 th March	'The Eggs Factor' talent show Children's Easter egg raffle to be drawn.
Friday 26 th March	End of term – 1pm finish
Monday 12 th April	Children back to school

As usual, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email or by phone with any questions or concerns.

All of the staff at Woodhall are **SO HAPPY** to be welcoming our children and families back to school. We hope that the remaining three weeks and the summer term will be happy and healthy for everybody in our Woodhall family (and a little bit of sunshine would be lovely too!).

Thank you very much for your support over the last few months. What an amazing community!



Miss Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/woodhallps>

