



Woodmancote School  
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# Newsletter

[www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk](http://www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk)

## Newsletter 2 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Thank you for all your support in getting children back into school this week. It has been wonderful to see your children enjoying meeting up with friends again. They have been an absolute joy to have back.

We recognise that some of you may have been anxious about your child restarting, but I can assure you that they have already grown accustomed to the new routines and ways of working and keeping safe.

Next week we will be reissuing the *Full School Reopening Document V6* as we have been evaluating our current provision alongside our Risk Assessment. However, prior to this I would like to outline a few changes for Monday of next week.

### Beginning of the School Day

The current approach to staggering the start and end of the school day has not been as smooth or as safe as we envisaged. Whilst many of you have been socially distancing and arriving at your staggered start time, this is not the case for everyone. We know that you are all eager to have your children back in school, but too many parents were arriving at 8.35, rather than staggering arrival times. We do not want to make any major changes so early in the term, especially when many of you have made arrangements, however a slight change will start on Monday. **Rather than gates opening at 8.35am, we will return to opening at 8.40am, not have staggered times, but rather allow parents to arrive at school anytime between 8.40am and 9am.** Register will not be taken until 9.10am, with gates being locked at 9.05am.

It is hoped that many of you will take the opportunity to support us in this approach

rather than us having to consider more restrictive measures.

### End of the School Day

In order to allow effective social distancing whilst on the school site, gates will be open at **3pm and Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2** may be collected from the classrooms. Those without siblings can then exit the school site via Station Road or via the Reception Gate if they only have a child in Reception. **Then, at 3.15pm children in Years 3-6 will be dismissed from their classrooms.**

While waiting, parents are asked to keep their distance from each other by standing in an appropriate spot.

Rowan, Sycamore, Yew and Hazel-Top Playground

Lime, Holly, Pine-Infant Playground

Fir-Along the top path by Year 6



### **Face Coverings**

In addition, whilst we recognise that many individuals have certain opinions about face coverings, as of Monday, we would kindly request all parents dropping children off and coming on to the school site, wear an appropriate face covering or mask. We are aiming to do all we possibly can to ensure that we do not have any cases at Woodmancote, which may then necessitate a particular class or year group having to then be sent home in order to self-isolate. We are aware that Cheltenham has seen a rise in cases, so we hope that you can all join in the effort to help stop the spread.

If parents are finding it hard to socially distance whilst coming into school, the wearing of face coverings may just help a little!

As a school we will constantly evaluate our provision and make the necessary changes we feel fit for our particular setting. All schools are different and will have their own control measures. The above are just a few of ours at the present time. These may change in due course.

### **PE kits**

These can be sent into school and left in school for the coming weeks. We will send them home just before the half term holiday for a wash! Many bags were left at school in March. We have endeavoured to return all labelled clothing and bags, but we still have several items. These will be displayed one last time next Monday in the area outside the front door. Any items unclaimed will be donated to charity.

### **Reading Books**

These will be coming home next week, in line with the days indicated in V5 of the Reopening Document.

From September different year groups from Reception-Year 4, will change their books on an allocated day. However, they will get several books that can be read over the week, not just one. Children in Years 5 and 6 will be able to change their own books as and when needed.

Monday-Year 2

Tuesday-Reception

Wednesday-Year 1

Thursday-Year 3

Friday-Year 4

### **Bags**

We have been aware of the number of children who have found carrying all their things into school quite tricky. Bags are allowed back and to from school, as long as they can be wiped down and do not have any furry or fabric 'attachments'!

### **Bikes and Scooters**

We always like it when children either cycle or scoot to school, but at the moment, with the one-way system in place, we kindly ask that children do not double back on themselves if placing bikes in the bike shed. Scooters are not so much of a problem as the scooter pods are in the Infant playground area. Bikes can be taken round by the parent on their way through the school site.



### Catch Up

Class teachers are currently welcoming children back and making them feel comfortable with being back in school. Gradually over the coming weeks we will be assessing all the children and then planning for those that need it, to have additional support. Further details will follow.

### Painting Aprons

We would normally allow children to use one of several painting aprons during the week. As this is not possible at the moment, can we ask that all children bring in an old shirt or something to protect their clothes when doing art. We will assume that you are ok with them doing art in their school uniform unless something is sent in next week. Please do not go out and buy anything, an old shirt is perfect.

### Medical appointments

Many appointments were cancelled during lockdown and parents are now rearranging during the school day. This is absolutely fine and we are happy to accommodate this when a parent wishes to pick their child up and drop them back to school. However, we will not be allowing parents to take their children out of school early for unauthorised holidays. If you want to go during the school day, you will need to keep the child off for the whole of the day and the child will receive an unauthorised absence code on the register.

### Car Parking

May we remind all Parents / Grandparents that parking is not permitted in the school car park at school drop off / pick-up times (including from school clubs) unless you have a disabled blue badge.

Woodpeckers Parents may use the car park when dropping off and collecting their children from Woodpeckers. Thank you.

#### Windows

A big thank you to Gary Lindley from Cotswold Contract Cleaning who very kindly gave us a free external window clean during the summer break. He did a great job!

### Contact Details

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[www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk](http://www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk)

Pre-school Website:

<http://littlechestnutspreschoolwoodmancote.co.uk/>



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