

Friday 14th May 2021

Covid

You will be aware that Monday 17th May is a milestone day in the 'roadmap to recovery'.

Schools have been sent lengthy guidance on what we can start easing in terms of restrictions and what things need to stay the same.

There are still a few worrying case numbers in areas in the northwest and the so-called 'Indian variant' is a concern so we are going to be cautious about easing off too quickly.

We will still need to operate bubbles and restrict large get-togethers, such as assemblies. Hand-washing and staggered times at lunch will also need to continue.

We are allowed to start doing clubs and breakfast club now though, as long as children do not mix bubbles. It will take us a few days to organise staffing and supplies so please don't start on Monday (unless you are in the group that have always been coming). I will write again next week to let you know the details.

Also, we will start doing after-school clubs for the last half-term which will be nice. Mrs Whitaker will organise this over the next week or so.

I am going to start opening the gate a little earlier in the morning so you don't need to wait until 8:45. Please don't start sending children in really early though as they may be tempted to mix with different bubbles. Parents are expected to socially distance on the playground and the guidance does still expect us all to wear masks in communal areas.

Thetford class are doing an assembly for parents next week. Parents are allowed to watch but the advice is that we should limit numbers and keep everyone socially distant. This is good news if we want to do any events next term.

We are hoping to organise some trips before summer holidays but we aren't allowed to mix classes on coaches at this time.

We are also now allowed to do singing in class and play wind instruments.

There are no other changes, so anything that was in place before are still in place next week. The next big point in the roadmap is June 21st when hopefully all restrictions are lifted.

Non-Covid

If children are late, they **MUST** be accompanied in to school by an adult to explain why. At the very least we should receive a phone call to explain. It's not fair to leave children to explain their lateness. If children are unaccompanied then it may be because they have been getting into mischief on the way in so we will ring you.

Our Educational Welfare Officer, Dave Purcell, is making contact with a number of parents regarding punctuality. Some families are racking up hundreds of minutes of lateness which is not acceptable. It is important to teach children the importance of punctuality plus lateness affects the whole class when teachers have to repeat information. Children also find it a bit embarrassing coming in when the class has started work. If you walk to school then there should be virtually no lateness.

Please don't be concerned if Mr Purcell calls. It is meant as a support. We are not looking to punish or fine anyone but we are expected to challenge parents to improve.

We are seeing a rise in numbers of people in the car park in the morning. Walking down to pre-school is fine but please don't cut across to get down to school.

There is also a rise in the number of bikes coming in to school which is great. We advise getting a bike lock though. It's locked most of the time but it is unlocked at the beginning and end of the day and school is not responsible for the security in the bike shed.

Finally, there are a number of jumpers outside the office. If you are missing one please claim it...and put a name in please!! 😊

Updates and info are easily viewable at

<https://www.woodsideprimary.co.uk/>

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Thank you and have a lovely weekend 😊