

**WEOBLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEOBLEY
HEREFORD
HR4 8ST**

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**Head of School
Mr S Warrell BA (Hons), PGCE**

Tuesday, 2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we prepare to exit lockdown, I feel that it is important to remind you and the children of the procedures for the children's return to school.

ALL children will return to school on **Monday 8th March 2021**.

We are confident in our COVID procedures and feel that everything we have done in the past went over and above the Department for Education guidelines. One of the biggest changes this time is that all school staff are testing for COVID twice per week. In previous "returns to school", children have felt safe and happy back in school and despite social distancing measures, they have been able to return to learning without too many difficulties. When children return on Monday, things will operate in pretty much the same way as they were in September.

Below I have highlighted the key areas of importance – my apologies for the length of this letter, but I feel it is important to reassure you of the steps we are taking in school to continue to protect our community.

Children's Emotional Wellbeing

All teachers have received training in "Reconnecting after Lockdown" to help support children who are finding the return to school tricky. In addition to this our Thrive Practitioners (Mrs Pennington and Mr Argent) will be on hand to support as needed.

If your child is anxious about returning to school, we will shortly be sending a text with a link to a therapeutic story, please take the time to read the story several times with them before their return.

Curriculum

We plan to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects when the children return, and as always will have high expectations for all of our pupils.

From the returned work packs and interaction with pupils during lockdown, teachers' planning will ensure any gaps in the children's learning will be addressed.

We are also making use of the extra funding from the government to run a tutoring programme for many pupils. These children will soon be sent a personal invitation to be part of this important programme.

Attendance

It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the outbreak on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. This guidance is very clear from the government and parents will be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance.

Only, where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, will an exception be made. A copy of such advice will need to be given to the school before the absence is authorised.



Classes

Children will be taught in their normal classroom. Staffing is as follows:

Class	Teacher(s)	Teaching Assistants
Nursery	Mrs Z Semple	Miss B Williams, Mrs M Watton and Miss L Watton
Reception	Mrs S Curtis	Mrs C Hill and Miss M Ambler
Year 1	Mrs S Powell and Mrs L Hailey	Miss L Jones and Mrs C Pennington
Year 2	Miss L Short	Miss Baugh and Mrs Girolami
Year 3	Mrs S O'Neil	Mrs L Richards, Miss S Hemming and Mr H Argent
Year 4	Mrs M Gammond	Miss T Bufton and Miss K Harris
Year 5	Mrs J Ameghino	Miss H James and Mrs J Davies
Year 6	Mrs S Thomas	Mrs M Drew and Mrs S Bobryzcki

Some additional supply teachers and teaching assistants may be used where current staff are expected to shield.

Social Distancing

In welcoming all children and young people back on Monday, we are expected to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil or member of staff has during the day and maximise distancing between those in school and wherever possible minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable. The Department for Education recognise that younger children of nursery and primary school age and those with complex needs will not be able to maintain social distancing and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their class.

School Office

In order to reduce congestion around the office, so as not to clash with Year 3 and 6 children arriving and leaving school, it will only be open for parents between 9.05am and 2.55pm.

The school office is selling school uniform, however, an order form should be requested by phone or email, this will be sent home with your child. Please return the form with the correct payment and your child will then bring the new uniform home.

Contact with the office staff should be kept to a minimum to protect yourselves and the staff in the office.

When in School

- Children, teachers and teaching assistants will work in class groups. Each class will only work in their given classroom and will not work in other classrooms, walk freely around the school corridors or come into contact with children or adults from other classrooms. Effectively whilst in school the children and adults will work in their own "bubble".

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- Children will be allocated individual “workstations” that will have their own resources (pencils, erasers, rulers etc.) that they must not share with another pupil.
- Children from Year 1 upwards will keep their personal possessions (coat, school bag, book bag, water bottle and packed lunch) at their workstation, cloakrooms and lockers will only be used if this can be done without congestion.
- Children will eat their lunch at their workstation in their classroom
- Break times will be managed so that only the children and adults from one class will be in an outdoor space at one time so that there will be no mixing of classes.
- Regularly touched objects and surfaces will be cleaned more frequently and steps will be taken to reduce cross contamination e.g. the majority of doors in the school will be held open, those doors that need to be kept closed e.g. toilets will have their handles disinfected on a regular basis.
- Each class will have their own toilet which will not be used by other classes.
- Where possible, windows will be kept open to ensure rooms are kept well ventilated, please ensure the children always have warm clothes, including a coat, as on cold days, the additional ventilation will mean the classrooms are cooler than normal.
- Children will continue to wash hands on a regular basis – as we were doing immediately prior to lockdown
- For indoor PE lessons, large classes will be split into smaller groups

What to Bring to School

Children SHOULD NOT bring any possessions into school except a coat, bag, school book bag (to be provided by school), a water bottle and their packed lunch box (should they need one, school dinners will be available and should be ordered in the normal fashion). Children should avoid bringing any additional equipment, to avoid congestion in the classrooms. School will provide all of the necessary equipment needed to complete the school day.

To prevent bringing any infection into school, ALL children should be wearing regularly laundered clothes and they should wash their hands before leaving home.

All children will be expected to wear school uniform, with the exception of the class PE/Forest School days, when children should wear their PE/Forest School Kit into school for the entire day. Teachers will communicate separately when the class have PE/Forest School.

Long hair should be tied up.

Personal Protective Equipment – PPE

Department for Education - Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance states: "*Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering.*"

If you chose to provide your child with a face covering, they **must** be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it. If your child chooses to remove the face covering, they **must** place it in a plastic bag, provided from home, which must then be taken home with them, hands will then need to be washed.

I will also be giving staff the choice to wear a face mask in the classroom if they wish, in addition to this,

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there may be times that they have to wear a mask for more intimate care – e.g. first aid, nappy changing – please explain to the children that some of the staff may be using a mask at different times of the day. Staff will also wear face masks when moving around the common areas of the school.

School Transport

For information about school transport, please visit their website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/public-transport-1/school-college-transport/9>

Arriving at School

Children should arrive at school between 8.45am and 9am. They should be accompanied by no more than **one adult**.

When you arrive at school in the morning – please bring your child to their allocated entry point – these have not changed from the entry points in September.

- Nursery:** Wooden gate at the rear of the staff car park
- Reception:** Wooden gate at the rear of the staff car park
- Year 1:** Nursery Entrance
- Year 2:** Nursery Entrance
- Year 3:** Hall Entrance next to the school reception/office
- Year 4:** Key Stage 2 Playground Entrance
- Year 5:** Key Stage 2 Playground Entrance
- Year 6:** Hall Entrance next to the school reception/office

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES MUST BE ADHERED TO WHEN DROPPING OFF CHILDREN, FOLLOW DIRECTIONS AT YOUR CHILD'S ENTRY POINT, WE AIM TO CONTINUE MAINTAINING 2 METRES BETWEEN EACH FAMILY.

When your child has entered the school, leave the school premises immediately.

Leaving School

Please arrive at school between 3pm and 3.20pm. No more than **one adult** should come to collect their child from their allocated collection point:

- Nursery:** Wooden gate at the rear of the staff car park
- Reception:** Wooden gate at the rear of the staff car park
- Year 1:** Nursery Entrance
- Year 2:** Nursery Entrance
- Year 3:** Hall Entrance next to the school reception/office
- Year 4:** Key Stage 2 Playground Entrance
- Year 5:** Key Stage 2 Playground Entrance
- Year 6:** Hall Entrance next to the school reception/office

Staff will watch out for your arrival and bring your child out to you as swiftly as possible.

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SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES MUST BE ADHERED TO WHEN PICKING UP CHILDREN, FOLLOW DIRECTIONS AT YOUR CHILD'S COLLECTION POINT, WE AIM TO CONTINUE MAINTAINING 2 METRES BETWEEN EACH FAMILY.

When you have collected your child, leave the school premises immediately.

If you have any questions or need to make staff aware of anything please contact the school via email, text or phone. Staff have been told not to have conversations, other than a quick hello, when pupils are arriving or leaving school to ensure this process is quick and families aren't queuing.

Wraparound Care

Breakfast Club and ChillDen After School Club will re-open from Monday 8th March 2021. As these create a different 'bubble', increasing the risk of the spread of the virus, enhanced social distancing measures will be adopted. Pupil numbers will need to be monitored and for this reason, **all children will need to be booked in by the Friday of the week prior to gain a place the following week.** Parents are asked to **seriously** consider whether the place is required.

Bereavement

If your family or a close friend have faced a bereavement, staff should be made aware of this before your child returns to school. Children have an amazing capacity to conceal grief when around family, occasionally when in school, some children let their true feelings out. Being forewarned will allow us to support your child at this difficult time in their lives.

Self-isolation if your child or someone they live with has coronavirus symptoms

To protect others, your child must stay at home if they or someone they live with has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). You are advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that the person with symptoms must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

The school must be contacted immediately.

See the section below for details of actions to take upon receipt of the test results.

What happens if your child develops coronavirus symptoms when in school?

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Whilst waiting to be collected, they will be isolated from other children and staff, supervised by one adult.

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COVID Test Results

If children test negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If children test positive, they should follow the [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 10 days.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the school will contact the Health Protection Team. The Health Protection Team will work with the school in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the Health Protection Team, the school must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 10 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. The other household members of the children and adults sent home to self-isolate do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with from that class subsequently develops symptoms.

I appreciate there is a lot of information included in this letter and a lot to process, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Warrell
Head of School