



29th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Start of term plans September 2020- subject to change

I am writing to inform you of plans for the start of term in September 2020.

You will know from the latest government announcements that it is the government's intention for all children to return to school in September.

All of us at Woodside are really looking forward to welcoming the children and young people back.

As many of the children will not have been in school for some months, we intend to offer all children a transition period at the beginning of term so that they have time to process some of the necessary changes to the usual school routines and are able to familiarise themselves with their new teacher and class team.

When they return to school, senior students in years 7-13 will complete a full school day from 9am-3pm.

Primary pupils in years 1-6 will complete a shorter school day for the first week only from **9am-1.30pm**. From Monday 14th September, primary pupils will complete a full school day starting at 9am and finishing at 3pm.

There will be a phased start of term depending on which year group your child is in and this will be confirmed to you in more detail in a letter to follow.

Wednesday 2nd September: INSET day (no children in school)

Thursday 3rd September : INSET day (no children in school)

Friday 4th September: Year 7, Y10, Y11 only (full day)

Monday 7th September : Y7- Y13 only (full day)

Tuesday 8th September: Primary school, Y1-Y6 (shorter day initially) and senior school, Y7-Y13 (full day)

Wednesday 9th September : All children, all year groups, every day.

You will receive a letter with the exact details for your child.

Please note that plans above are subject to change over the Summer.

In this way, we can ensure that:

- we are able to apply any necessary safety measures which may be necessary in September
- a gradual increase in the number of children returning giving them time to get used to some new daily routines.

The classes and teachers for September 2020 are being finalised and we will inform you in writing of details of the teacher and class your child will be with and the confirmed start date for your child.



We will also be sending home transition booklets for all children and where possible will arrange an introductory phone call for those children who have a change of teacher.

I have outlined below some important changes. Please bear in mind that these are subject to change as they rely on the national context and how the country is progressing with regard to the pandemic.

Safety Measures

Throughout the summer break, school leaders will be keeping up to date with all developments relating to ensuring that the school is COVID19- secure for the return of all children and full re-opening.

Arrival in school:

There are some changes to school entry points as follows

Primary: Primary children will enter through the gate to the side of Reception.

KS3 Y7: Entrance to the right of the building, using the back door by Maple Class and then straight to classroom.

KS3 Y8-9: Senior entrance and straight to classroom.

KS4 and P16: Senior entrance using the double doors and straight to tutor group.

Uniform:

Currently students attending school are not permitted to wear the school blazer. We will provide further clarification on this matter in early September.

Curriculum:

We know that many in our school community will have had very different experiences over the past few months and we will be offering a recovery curriculum alongside re-establishing the school routines. This will be carried out with sensitivity and understanding.

Class groupings

We aim to place children in the class which is a best fit for them as they move through the school. Usually during the Summer term, we are able to ease the children into their new classes for September and tweak any emerging issues before the class groupings are finalised. This is not possible this year and we are aware that some children and young people have been affected in different ways by the lockdown.

We will be taking the first half term in Autumn 2020 to settle the children and to ensure that they are in the learning group best suited to their age, needs and ability.

Parking: There is no parking on site.

As we have an increase in our school roll numbers, there is no longer an option for parents or carers to park on site unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. This measure has not been taken lightly and is to protect the safety of everyone at arrival and departure times. Those parents and carers



who currently have a parking permit should not assume that they will be issued with a permit in September.

Unrestricted parking is available in Birling Road which runs parallel to Colyer's Lane.

Progress Review Day: Tuesday November 3rd 2020

In order to plan thoroughly for each individual on their return to school, we will be using personal learning plans, (PLPs) and academic data to ensure that we know exactly where they are in their learning and to start the year with a really good understanding of each child and how their return to school has been. We are therefore introducing a Progress Review Day on Tuesday November 3rd.

On this day, children will not attend school as normal. Each child and parent/carer will be invited to attend a progress review meeting with the class teacher. The aim of the meeting is to share information from home and school and to agree the next set of personal targets for each learner.

In this way we hope to jointly identify any gaps in learning and hopefully to provide a tailored approach to ensuring that your child makes as much progress as possible next year, despite the effect of the pandemic.

This event will replace the Autumn Parent-Carer consultation evening.

The usual parent/carer consultation evening will still take place in the Spring term 2021.

I enclose a revised term dates list for September 2020-July 2021. This includes some of the changes outlined above.

Please be assured that we will remain vigilant throughout August and respond to any changes directed by the government. We intend to support children and families on their return to school as much as possible and are looking forward to the year ahead when hopefully we will be able to enjoy a period of stability.

In the meantime, please do continue to connect with the school and do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Freame
Head of School

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