

Woodcroft Primary School



Phased return to school

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, thank you for your amazing support and patience over the last 8 weeks as we have tried to navigate our way through this crisis. As you are aware, it was announced on Sunday evening that schools would begin a phased return on Monday 1st June **if the conditions were safe to do so**. Since Sunday, we have been working through the guidance and developing a plan for the pupils of Woodcroft to return in a manner that reduces the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Clearly, this is a worrying time for parents, pupils and staff, but I would like to assure you that we are taking every precaution we can to ensure the safe return of children to Woodcroft.

Our initial plan involved bringing children in Year R, 1 and 6 back in on a part-time basis split into smaller groups of 15 or less. This would mean that children would be taught by their teacher for 2 days a week and home-learning would continue for 3 days a week. This would allow us to ensure that the systems we are implementing in school are safe and provide the safest environment for our pupils and staff.

The government priority is for Year R children to return first, followed by Year 1 and then Year 6, with other Year Groups returning over a period of time. The department of Education produced further guidance last night that states that children in Year R should return on a full-time basis in classes of no more than 15. This guidance means that our original plan may need to change because we will have to use an additional teacher from a different Year Group. This alters the plan for the school significantly as we are still supporting other children with home learning, as well as our Key Worker children.

I am sorry at this stage that I cannot provide you with a full plan for re-opening. Despite our efforts, the guidance from the DFE has constantly developed over the week and as such our own plans need to adapt.

I want to make it very clear that it is only if the school is ready and the government have stated that the conditions for schools opening have been met, that we will open on the 1st June and this could only be for Year R in the first instance.

The safety and wellbeing of all our pupils is our main priority and I will not open the school if it is not ready to welcome back pupils in a safe and caring manner. I will provide more details next week when there should be further clarity on the government guidance.

Once again, I would like to apologise for the lack of detail in this letter. It was my intention to provide you with full details of our plan, but due to the developing advice this has not been possible at this point in time.

If you do have any questions please email me at staff@woodcroft.hants.sch.uk and I will endeavour to answer them as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Fanning

Headteacher
Woodcroft Primary School