

Willow Tree Community Primary School



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Headteacher: Dr Helen Davey

1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after what I hope has been a good break for everyone over the Summer Holidays. We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday 6th September unless you are starting Little Oaks (Nursery) for the first time in which case you have your own specific start date and time.

There has been some guidance over the holidays and I am quite sure there will be plenty more over the coming weeks. With Covid 19 rates continuing to be high it is important we continue to take precautions to ensure your children and the staff are safe and the children's education is uninterrupted for as much time as possible. Whilst some of these precautions are not now required by law, we are taking a cautious view and retaining much of the advisory guidance – **we really want to keep cases in school as low as we possibly can** and are taking as many precautions as we feel appropriate.

Start and end of the day

We will be returning to our 'Soft Start' to the day – a 10 minute period when the door will be open with the children able to go in anytime in the 10 minute time slot. We will still aim to limit the number of parents on site by doing this in two blocks of time. Your child can be dropped off at any point in the 10 minute slot. Please make sure you do not approach the drop off point for your child until the start time or collection time for their Year Group.

8.40 – 8.50am Y5, Y4, Y1 and Little Oaks

8.50 - 9am Y6, Y3, Y2 and Reception

Finishing times will be

3.05pm – Y5, Y4 and Y1

3.15pm – Y6, Y3, Y2, Reception and Little Oaks

Each Year Group will have its own entry door however if we find this creates a problem with too many children in the corridors then we will return to each class having a different entry point.

Little Oaks will enter via the short one way system through the gates into the foundation stage playground (as last term)

Ash and Chestnut (YR) will enter via the sloping corridor from the Jepson playground. For the first day Miss Astin and Mrs Cowell will both come to the playground to make sure everyone knows where to go.

Holly, Cherry and Hornbeam Class (Y1) will enter via the door at the bottom of the playground close to Holly Classroom.

Lime and Spruce (Y2) will enter via their own classroom doors.

Apple and Poplar (Y3) in the hut will enter with Apple coming through the front door into the cloakroom and Poplar their rear door off the garden area.

Hawthorn (Y3) and Larch (Y4) in the new build will enter via their exterior classroom doors

Cedar and Maple (Y4) will enter via the door by the Cedar and Maple Cloakrooms off the playground.

Sycamore, Rowan and Elm (Y5) will enter via the door next to the hall near Elm Classroom.

Walnut, Acer and Silver Birch (Y6) will enter via the door near the Y6 Cloakrooms.

The ginnel gate will be reopened but the drive will remain closed to any traffic at drop off and pick up and we will continue the one way system up and down the drive.

We want all site users to continue to feel comfortable walking around school so please use the one way system from Jepson Building and onto the drive or around Drummond building and back to the drive or ginnel gate. If you enter through the ginnel gate you should follow the one way system around Drummond Building i.e. walk along the front of the building and then out around the rear.

If you are dropping more than one child off in different time slots then please do find a space on the playground where you can distance and wait. Please keep your child with you. Please leave site as soon as you have dropped your child off. If you are later than your time slot then you will need to drop your child off and sign them in as late in the school office.

Any parents who have a blue badge for themselves or their child and who had specific arrangements last year for drop off should continue with these. Any parent who now has a blue badge due to a change in circumstances should contact the office to talk about arrangements for drop off and pick up.

Whilst we know parents and children are keen to get back to cycling and scootering to school, in the first few weeks you will still be unable to leave these on site until we see how the new arrangements are working.

Extended Groups

Whilst we still remain in distinct class groups for the majority of the time, we will move to Year Group Playtimes for outside play meaning the children can play with their friends from other classes in their year group only.

Masks

School staff will continue to wear masks as now when outside their Class and in line with the guidance from the Government advice that masks should be worn in crowded spaces, we are asking adults to continue to wear masks at drop off and pick up times and most especially when talking to staff.

Parents are not allowed to enter the school buildings except for coming to the office. Please ensure you are wearing a mask when you come inside the office lobby area.

PE Kits, lunchboxes, etc

Children may only bring these things to school each day

Book bags – there should only be reading books in these bags. No toys, home books, etc should be brought to school

Packed lunches in plastic lunchboxes with handles or plastic boxes in PE type draw sting bags (available from the office).

Water Bottles containing water only.

PE Kits in drawstring bags can be left in school in lockers or on pegs.

NO BACKPACKS ARE ALLOWED.

Ventilation

We continue to ventilate all classrooms by opening windows whatever the weather. As it gets cooler later this term you may want to make sure your child has additional layers available to wear.

Cases of Covid 19

If your child has **Covid Symptoms (however mild) then they should remain off school and take a PCR Test.** They should not return to school until either they have received a negative test result or they have self isolated for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. The Guidance states that schools should send home pupils even if they have only mild symptoms to get a test or to isolate.

The following is the Guidance for other members of the household:

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- *they are fully vaccinated*
- *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

This is very different from the guidance previously in place and I know parents may well be concerned about the spread of Covid in this situation. We will be looking to our school community to work with us to try and keep cases in school to a minimum.

- Please ensure all members of the household where there is a positive case, take a PCR test to see if they have Covid even if they don't have symptoms.
- We will, of course, support families where they feel their whole family should isolate if there is a positive case in their household.
- We will let parents know if there is a confirmed case of covid in their child's class.

The guidance is clear that we will not be closing classes for a single case, if there are a number of cases in school Public Health will make the decision about how that outbreak is dealt with.

Families will have different thoughts about how this affects them. They may have concerns about their child contracting covid or may have family members who are Clinically Vulnerable and may not have been able to be vaccinated. If you have any concerns when a case is identified in your child's class please do talk to school.

Any Person who has Covid Symptoms or has had a positive Covid Test, vaccinated or not, should not leave their home or come onto the school grounds.

A reminder of the difference between the two forms of test:

A PCR Test is for people with symptoms of Covid 19 – if your child has even mild symptoms this is the test you should use.

A LFT (lateral flow test) is for people to use regularly to check they are not carrying the virus asymptotically (they do not have symptoms). If an LFT is positive you should also get a PCR test as soon as possible to confirm this.

Blended Learning

We will continue to provide Blended Learning for children who are unable to attend school because of Covid 19.

All our arrangements will continue to be monitored and changes made should we feel this is needed to maintain safety.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Helen Davey