

WOOL CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs E Griffiths

High Street
Wool
Wareham
Dorset
BH20 6BT

Telephone: 01929 462569

E-mail: office@woolprimary.dorset.sch.uk



Rooted in the community to grow and flourish

13th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In my communication following the Prime Minister's announcement last Sunday evening, I promised to keep you updated with our school's plans moving forward. I am constantly receiving updated guidance but wanted to share the current position of the school in light of [this guidance](#) which details the actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for the wider openings of schools from 1st June 2020. The government have currently stated for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be able to return to their school setting from 1st June. The government's ambition is then to enable all primary aged pupils to return to school for the last 4 weeks of the summer term, although they have clearly stated that this will need to be kept under review.

School leaders, with governor support, are now beginning to form plans and review risk assessments for the phased return of pupils, as outlined above. I want to stress that the ideas I am about to share are not concrete absolutes due to the fact that guidance is likely to be changed and updated again over the next few days and weeks. Nevertheless, I feel it is important to begin to communicate with you about what our school provision moving forward is likely to look like.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

The start and end of the days are going to look very different. It is likely that children who are eligible to return to school will be given a drop off/pick up time and that these will be staggered at both the start and end of the day. **In line with the guidance** we would **recommend** only 1 adult drops off/picks up the child/ren in order to reduce the number of people coming onto the playground. No outdoor equipment will be available for use due to the fact that this will lead to an additional cleaning burden for the school. We may need to explore using the wider front gates to enable social distancing to take place. Absolutely **no 1:1 contact is permitted** between parents and staff members **and social distancing must be respected between all adults attending the site**. The school office will also not be able to be used by parents/carers. All communication should be by email and telephone in order to reduce face to face contact.

CLASS ORGANISATION

In order to promote social distancing, some year groups will be split into smaller groups and your child therefore may be working in a different classroom from the one they are used to. Classes will be rearranged to encourage only 1 child at a table etc. Soft furnishings will be removed or blocked off due to the fact that we will be unable to clean them daily. Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms and children will be asked to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day.

In order to adhere to government guidance to reduce the number of people mixing with one another, children will remain within a particular group. This group is unlikely to change as doing this will increase risk. We will aim to keep only a couple of staff members working with each group and will only rotate them if absolutely necessary (e.g. in cases of staff illness). This means that children may not be taught by their current class teacher. Our fantastic teaching assistants will also be called on to lead groups some of the time to enable us to promote social distancing.

www.woolprimary.com



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



We will plan for more outdoor education experiences to take place within our grounds, though this of course will be weather dependant. We will do everything we can to encourage children within a group to remain two metres apart, however, from our experience this can be virtually impossible with the age of children we are working with. **The guidance acknowledges that this may not be possible for very young children but advises that any contact should be kept to a minimum.**

BREAK & LUNCHTIMES

These will need to be staggered and children are likely to be required to eat in their classrooms. Children will be given some time outside (providing it isn't raining) though we might not be able to use equipment due to the fact that it would need to be cleaned in between every new group. All children will need to be provided with a packed lunch, although we hope to be able to support those families with children who are eligible for pupil premium funding to access a hamper/packed lunch through Chartwells. Children will remain in their identified groups throughout lunch and we will not mix these groups on the playground/field.

LEARNING PROVISION

Staff will be working hard to offer provision for those children who are eligible for coming into school whilst also providing home learning activities and support for those who are at home. This might mean that the school is only able to open for part of the week in order to ensure that staff are given the time to plan, prepare and resource for all children. Lessons in school will not follow the same format as lessons before school closure due to the changes outlined throughout this letter. **Current advice is that it is not necessary to wear PPE (personal protection equipment) however we will continue to monitor the government position on this.** Some staff members may wear face masks and/or gloves if they feel it is appropriate (for example, if a child becomes ill whilst at school).

KEYWORKER & VULNERABLE FAMILIES

School has remained partially open since 20th March for children who are not able to stay at home due to the keyworker role their parent holds. Also, we have continued to welcome those who are considered vulnerable for various reasons. We will continue to strive to offer this provision, however, it is likely that children who are not in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 will form a separate group. Again, this group will have an assigned staff member to support them and additional TAs if we have the staff capacity. As with previous guidance, if a child is safe at home then they can stay at home. We are in the process of developing individual risk assessments for children with an EHCP and will be able to discuss the provision your child will be offered nearer the time.

SUNRISE & TWILIGHT CLUB

At present, I am unable to confirm whether or not this will be able to run in the same way as usual. It is likely that timings for this will have to change or we might not be able to run it at all. I will continue to explore this provision and will share more information when I have it.

MAY HALF TERM

As you know, staff did not have their Easter holiday last term due to their responsibilities to continue to provide for children at school. We have been advised by the LA to consider closing from Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May in order to prepare for the phased return of pupils to school. I would therefore like to advise everyone that we intend to do this and, as a result, your child's class teacher will not be making phone calls or responding to emails during this time. It is important for them to be able to focus on ensuring the transition for all those coming into school from June is as smooth as possible. I also hope they will be able to spend some time with their own families before beginning what will be an extremely busy term.

INSET DAY

Our published dates for INSET session this year include a training day on 1st June 2020. I am unsure at present if this will still go ahead but please be aware that the LA are currently advising that it will. This would mean we will have no children in school on this day.

YOUR VIEWS

As a parent myself, I can fully appreciate that you will have your own views, opinions and concerns about the government's decision and the impact it will have on your own family situation. I am sure that there will be a full spectrum of thoughts and views about this matter. It would be very useful if you could share your views so that I am able to try and plan in response to them.

As a school, please be assured that we respect the challenges that COVID-19 has presented to you as parents/carers and your family situation. For this reason, we hope to be able to adopt an ethos that supports your decision for your child. **Please be aware that, if you want your child to remain at home regardless of guidance, neither you nor the school will be penalised for your child's attendance record.** There is no obligation on children to come into school. We aim to fully support all children and families, whether they are at home or at school. Our home learning provision will continue, as will communication through emails and phone calls etc.

Understanding your views and your intentions should the wider opening of schools take place as described from Monday 1st June 2020, will help us to best prepare for this challenge. If you believe your child/ren will be eligible for a school place from 1st June then I would be grateful if you could email me to share your views and intentions: e.griffiths@woolprimary.dorset.sch.uk.

I want to end this letter by stressing that we really do look forward to when we can all be together again ... whenever that is. That said, we know that we must be patient as safety should always come first. The national situation has given us a number of obstacles to navigate through and, by working together, I hope we can achieve this whilst prioritising the safety of all involved.

I look forward to hearing from you when you email me with your thoughts about whether or not you would like your child to return to school when the time comes. Please be patient with me if I do not respond straight away as I am anticipating receiving quite a lot of emails! I hope that we can work together to ensure that every child is able to access the provision that will best suit him/her.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie Griffiths (Headteacher)
Wool CE VA Primary School