Arrangements for Return to School

20 August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Education Minister, Mr Peter Weir has issued updated guidance to all schools in Northern Ireland regarding their Re-Opening. In response to this guidance I wish to make you aware of the plans for return to school for Woods Primary School pupils.

As previously communicated P7 will return to school from Monday 24th August 2020. School will commence for them at 9.10am and finish at 12noon for the first week. School will be closed on bank holiday Monday and re-open full time to pupils from 8.45am to 2pm (P1-P3) or 3pm (P4-P7) from 1 September.

P1 Induction Days will go ahead as planned on Tuesday 25 August at 10am for Group 1 and 1.30pm for Group 2. It is important that all children and at least one parent attend this session to help your child to settle into school life quickly. If you are unable to attend this session please telephone the school in advance, or email kwhite377@c2kni.net.

Please be aware that neither school transport or school meals will be available during the week of 24th August so pupils should make their own way to school and bring their own drink and healthy break. The School Kitchen Menu will follow in the coming days.

Monday 31st August is a Bank Holiday and then ALL pupils will return to school on Tuesday 1st September. We have allowed an extra 10 minutes for everyone to arrive in school safely in the mornings. It is imperative that ALL PARENTS PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING when arriving at school and on school grounds. If we find groups of parents gathering together in school grounds, we will unfortunately have to take action and stagger all classes arrival and collection times as suggested in the DENI return to school documentation.

We will allow new P1 children and transferring P2 pupils to be accompanied by one parent into school on the first day and **during the first week only if necessary**. All new P1 and P2 pupils *with parents accompanying* them should not arrive until between 9.10 and 9.20am to allow the school community to practise social distancing. P1 and P2 pupils without a parent accompanying them into the classroom can arrive from 8.45am (the same as the other children). **Please remember children should not be left unsupervised on school grounds before 8.45am for their own safety**. Parents should ensure that their child walks through the door where a member of staff will be on duty to ensure they get to their class safely.

In order to operate as near to normal as possible, we have made a number of adjustments to our day-to-day activities and updated our risk assessments. I have attached a document called 'Covid-19 Guidelines' which outlines the school adjustments to keep everyone safe and the information will allow you to plan for your child(ren)'s return to school. On their return to school and before any classes take place, pupils will have a health and safety briefing in their classroom and will have new school procedures explained to them. I would appreciate if you could discuss, at home, the importance of health and safety and the responsibility everyone has to follow new procedures in school. I want to keep the school open but most importantly I want to keep everyone in the school community safe. Any breach in our Covid-19 Guidelines will result in sanctions being imposed in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy.

If you are concerned about the vulnerability of your child due to a pre-existing health condition, please make contact with school as soon as possible and not later than Wednesday 26th August. It would be essential for any pupil in this category to provide up to date advice from their regular Consultant or GP.

Thank you for all of your support to date. I will continue to communicate with you as further guidance is provided and as we all adapt to the changing context within which we find ourselves.

Yours sincerely,

K White
Principal