



WOBURN LOWER SCHOOL
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26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to give you details of the return to school for all children on Monday 8th March and we are also sending you revised risk assessments for this as there are a few changes. These changes were made through consultation with staff and Governors.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Children in Squirrels and Badgers will be sitting in grouped tables, rather than rows. Although Government Guidelines state that children should be sat in rows when possible, table groups are not only a preferred way of teaching for our staff, but also, with our small classrooms, the teachers found that it was harder for them to keep any distance from the children when they were squeezing along the rows to talk to them.

BUBBLE GROUPS

Owls will continue as before, in one bubble group of 10 children.

Squirrels and Badgers will now be one bubble group together. This will mean that they are now a group totalling 42 children. Government guidelines are to keep the numbers as small as possible, but the size is at the school's discretion. Our reasons for grouping them together is that they will then be able to spend playtimes and lunch-times together, although they will continue to be taught in separate classrooms and to sit on separate tables for lunch. This will help enormously with organisation and will mean that Teaching Assistants will have more time to work with the children addressing their educational needs. The children will also be able to spend more time outside, which is beneficial for their health and wellbeing as well as being in accordance with Government guidelines to keep children outside as much as possible.

PERIPATETIC TEACHERS

External teachers for PE, lunch-time sports, French and Guitar are now invited to join the school again. They are asked to follow our risk assessment guidelines and invited to join in with the self-testing scheme for staff.



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

These will now be running as before, subject to demand.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Hot dinners will now be provided instead of packed lunches. Children are welcome to bring their own packed lunches – please do not include any fizzy drinks, chocolate or nuts.

BRINGING THINGS IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

Please continue to only bring named packed lunches and water bottles to school. There is one exception to this, however: we would really like to see the work that the children have been doing at home during lockdown. If you would like to send work into us, please send this in a named carrier bag on Monday 8th March ONLY. We can then store the bags in the hall and isolate them for a few days before they are looked at.

PE

Please send your child in named outdoor PE kits on their designated day for PE (Owls – Friday, Squirrels – Thursday, Badgers – Wednesday)

ENTRY AND EXIT

Please keep to these times, as before. Although Squirrels and Badgers are now one bubble, we need to maintain separate drop off and pick up times as this will avoid crowds and enable parents to social distance. Please wear masks and leave the Heritage Site as soon as you have collected/dropped off your children.

	EYFS	KS1	KS2
ENTRY	8.45	8.55	9.05
EXIT	3.15	3.25	3.35

All siblings should continue to enter school at the same time as their younger sibling.

All siblings should continue to leave the school at the same time as their older sibling.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Now that Mrs Windle is on maternity leave (no news yet!!) I will be running pastoral support for the time being, as Mrs Black will be staying in her bubble with Owls. Children can be given extra support for their well-being and emotional health, either in small groups or 1:1. Children that may benefit from this can be referred by the class teacher or by a parent. If you feel that your child would benefit from some extra support, for any reason, please let me know.



SCHOOL PREPARATION FOR THE CHILDREN'S RETURN

Preparations for the return of all children are well under way and the excitement is mounting!! Whilst some schools are opting to close next Friday afternoon in order to prepare, I think you should know that your wonderful teachers and teaching assistants were in school during the half-term holidays getting ready!! We will be treating our bubble children to some extra playtime on Friday afternoon, whilst the staff finish all the details.

The Guidelines that the Government set are designed for schools to use purely as guidance, but ultimately we are asked to decide the best systems and protocols that work for our individual settings. This is no easy task, and of course, not one that we take lightly as we are very aware of the dangers that still exist with the spread of Covid 19. We will continue to take the utmost care over cleaning and hygiene, social distancing and ventilation of the classrooms.

The most important thing that we can all do to ensure our safety as much as we possibly can is for us all to adhere to the current rules in the new road map that the Government have set out and, of course, to follow the 'hands, face, space' recommendations. We know that you have all been doing so, and that several parents have 'erred on the side of caution' and kept their children at home when there has been any doubt that they may have been in contact with someone with symptoms or if they are unwell. We are really grateful for this and whilst understanding the difficulties involved, especially after such a long lockdown, we ask you to please carry on being extra cautious. From 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory, except for illness or Covid 19 – related absence. If your child is unwell, in keeping with school policy we will not be providing work for them at home, but if your child is isolating for reasons of Covid 19, they will receive educational support.

Phew !!! I think that has covered everything!! Please contact me if you have any queries at all.

With very best wishes

Sharon Longmuir

