

# Hethersett Woodside Primary & Nursery School



**Coachmaker Way, Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3GN**

**Tel: Norwich 01603 810674**

**Email: [office@hethersettwoodside.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@hethersettwoodside.norfolk.sch.uk) Headteacher: Mrs Angela Jermy**

26/02/2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following the government's announcement on Monday, we are looking forward to welcoming **all** the children back to school on **08<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. We are still following a rigorous risk assessment. However, the enhanced measures implemented in January, when school closed to most pupils, will be lifted on reopening, allowing full classes to resume. This includes Nursery.

It has been a challenging time for all of you and we really appreciate all the hard work with the home learning. This has been a huge, ongoing challenge, as we are well aware, due to trying to juggle the commitments of home and work, as well as managing your child's learning.

On returning to school, we will spend time gaining an understanding of where each child is academically. However our main focus initially will be on settling the children back to the routines of school. Well-being and emotional support will continue to be at the forefront of everything we do.

Forgive us, it is another long letter! You may be familiar with much of the information below but there have been some changes and additions, so please take the time to digest the finer details regarding reopening to all.

## **Remote Learning**

The return of children to school means that our remote learning offer will change significantly. There will no longer be live lessons and resources posted daily. However the online platforms will be put to good use with regards to communication and certain home learning opportunities. They will also still be utilised in the event of bubble closures and when individuals may need to isolate.



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Both the *Tapestry* and *Google Classroom* platforms have proven to be an invaluable resource over this period of closure and we thank you all for your engagement with them.

To a greater extent, the EYFS team will continue to use *Tapestry* as their method for communication and sharing learning between school and home and they strongly encourage you to continue to participate in your child's learning journey, by uploading observations and photographs which build a picture of their development. We are certain that we will continue to use some of the useful resources and teaching techniques which we have developed to enhance our learning offer moving forward.

*Google Classroom* will also continue to be utilised for certain aspects of communication and the posting of regular home learning resources.

## **Contact with Class Teachers**

All our class teachers will return to working their full complement of hours in school on March 08th. This means there will be little time around their working days for lengthy email exchanges, as there was during the school closure.

You are welcome to contact teachers but please prioritise a phone call or a meeting at the gate over lengthy emails. With all emails, we will read and respond as soon as we can and within normal, daytime working hours.

## **Parent / Teacher Meetings**

Usually, around this time of year we hold parent / teacher meetings but we have decided to postpone these to early in the summer term.

Throughout the school, we have made regular courtesy phone calls and/or kept in close contact via our online platforms.



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Of course, in Nursery we have not seen many of our children since our autumn term parent consultation meetings.

Therefore, all year groups will focus the next few weeks on resettling the children, establishing routine and developing their personal and social skills and working together as a class.

If you have any particular immediate concerns you would like to discuss regarding your child's return or development, please do contact us. Otherwise, we look forward to catching up more thoroughly next term.

## **Breakfast and After School Club**

We are pleased to be able to offer Breakfast and After School, as normal, from March 08th.

We are in the process of contacting families who had previously booked places so we should be in contact with soon, if not already. If you have any queries regarding places, please contact the school office.

## **After School Clubs**

Once we have settled in, we will look at getting after school clubs up and running as soon as we have thoroughly risk assessed this provision. We will update you as these gradually begin to open up.

## **School Days**

Some families may have been accessing in-school provision over this recent period of partial closure. From 08th March we will return to organising both the classes and the school days as we did in September. Therefore, children will learn in their normal classroom environment, with their usual friends. We will also be running full school



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days throughout the week. The school will no longer be closing every Friday afternoon, as it did during the partial closure.

Attendance in Nursery will return to original booking patterns. If you would like to confirm this or you need to make any alterations due to a change in circumstances, please contact us at [willow@hethersettwoodside.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:willow@hethersettwoodside.norfolk.sch.uk)

## **Staggered Days**

In order to continue to control the transmission of the virus we will continue to stagger the school day to limit large numbers of people gathering when dropping off and picking up.

The following arrangements are in place for the start and end of the school day:

**Squirrels:** 08:30 - 11:30 / 09:00 - 15:00 / 12.00 - 15.00

**Hedgehogs:** 08.45 - 11.45

**Rowan:** 09:00 - 15:00

**Sycamore:** 08:45 - 14:45

**Year One:** 08:45 - 14:45

**Year Two:** 09:00 - 15:00

**Year Three:** 09:15 - 15:15

**Year Four:** 09:15 - 15:15

There will still be the opportunity to consolidate arrival and pick-up times if you have more than one child in school. As before, run from the youngest child's day.

## **Lunches**

Norse will continue to provide school lunches and the normal menus will apply until Easter.



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## Bubbles

We will resort to the bubble system, as before. During the closure period these bubbles were significantly smaller but from Monday 08th they will return to the usual pre-closure configuration. Mostly, a bubble will constitute a whole year group.

The same commitment applies, as before and, if necessary, bubbles may need to be closed in the event of positive COVID-19 cases amongst staff or children.

## Lateral Flow Testing

Please be aware that since the closure, Hethersett Woodside is part of a national COVID-19 staff testing programme. Most staff have signed up to the optional initiative and those involved now take part in a twice weekly home test. These lateral flow tests are designed to detect the virus in those who are asymptomatic and add another layer of safety to the school measures.

The testing has the obvious implication that we may be subject to more regular closures of bubbles, as per our risk assessment, if there is a positive case. We are, however, pleased to say that since the testing began, this has not been necessary.

We will contact you as soon as possible in the event of any closures.

## Technology Loans

If you have borrowed technology from school over the school closure, please could you return it to the school office, when you return on 08th March.



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## School Uniform

When school reopens, we will expect children to wear school uniform.

As before, on the days where there is PE, please send children in wearing their kits:

- White T-Shirt with School Logo
- Black / Navy Shorts or Tracksuit Bottoms
- Hoodie (preferably with Woodside Logo) or Woodside Jumper
- Trainers

Class teachers will be in touch soon to let you know the days your child's class is scheduled for a PE session.

## Bags and Belongings

Bags and bookbags are permitted but please only send in essential items for learning and comfort.

## Curriculum

In the first week of school, we recognise that there may be some anxiety around the return. We will be sensitive to this and make sure that there is enough flexibility within the curriculum to do important work around keeping safe, health and well-being.

Otherwise, the curriculum will be running continuously. [Class curriculum letters](#) can be found on our website with more detail.

We hope that this has given you the necessary information regarding the return to school on March 08th. Specific queries relating to your child should be addressed to class teachers. Otherwise, if there is any support or further detail you would like, please contact the school office.



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Thank you for your continued support and understanding through this very challenging time. We are looking forward to seeing you all again and welcoming you and your children back to school soon.

Kind regards

Angela Jermy

