

Friday 10th September 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter of this new year!

We've been back over a week now and all the children seem very well settled. Even the little ones are doing well considering how difficult it's been for them so far.

Covid

There are now very few restrictions in place. Children only need to stay off if they have tested positive or have symptoms of covid, which should then be confirmed with a PCR test. Even if there is a positive case in the family, if there are no symptoms then children can come in - according to current guidelines. I advise caution on this though and urge you to consider testing children before they come to school. Schools in Scotland are seeing a surge in cases having been back longer than us.

We are continuing to clean surfaces throughout the day and handwashing but there are still a few things we won't do as they become too crowded but it's good to be back to something like normal.

We are still continuing the practice of children coming to school in PE kit as it saves so much time and children get more time in the lesson. Can we please make sure children have a white T-shirt for PE please. There were quite a number without one last week.

The children look very smart in their uniform. There are old logos and new logos (both of which are fine). As usual though, very few children have their names in which makes it difficult to identify them when they take them off at playtime. If you have a Sharpie at home then please put some initials on the washing label.

Breakfast Club is 8:15 and it's ok for Reception class to come if you feel they are ready. Please don't arrive early and remember, it is run by volunteers so any poor behaviour could result in a ban.

Joanne tells me that none of our Reception parents have filled in the details for free school meals. All infants are entitled to what we call Universal Free School Meals but there is also Benefits Related Free School Meals which generates money for the school. If there are any parents who are in receipt of benefits then please fill out the form here...

<https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

or type into Google Halton Borough Council free school meals.

Please ask in the office if you have any questions.

Health and Safety

We have had a couple of incidences of confusion at home time around who can or can't pick children up.

As a rule we do not let a child go unless it's with someone we recognise. Sometimes we get it wrong though and sometimes children recognise someone and say it's ok. If there is anyone that might pick up at 3 but you do not want to pick up then please let us know asap. Also, if you are happy for a child to walk home alone then let us know. The guideline age for this is 8 and above.

We gave out contact forms for parents to fill in which is incredibly important. There are still quite a few of these not returned. Please do so as soon as possible.

Attendance and Punctuality

Both of these have suffered a bit during covid and I want to try and get back to the standards we had two years ago. I have asked our Educational Welfare Officer, Dave Purcell, to spend more time here to help and support families.

He will be here at least one day a week and will also be making some calls to offer advice and support to any families who we identify as being below the expected levels.

Please do not be alarmed if you get a call, it is supportive.

Finally, the classroom doors open at 8:45 and stay open until 9am. Please don't arrive on school grounds before this. There is no need. I want to reduce the amount of people hanging around school grounds so please arrange to arrive between these times so you can come and go quickly. Thank you.

Updates and info are easily viewable at

<https://www.woodsideprimary.co.uk/>

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Thank you and have a lovely weekend 😊