



Lightwoods Primary School

Years 3–6 Castle Road East, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 9BG

EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2 Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0LP

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2 March 2021

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

8th March 2021 Re-opening:

I am delighted that I will finally be able to meet many of you, having had a very unusual start to my headship of Lightwoods. Mrs Jackson and I will be happy to talk to as many of you as we can on the playground and welcome everyone back to school. Let us all hope we can stay open and get through the rest of this year without so much disruption.

The school will be fully open from Monday 8th March onwards to all children.

We expect that primary schools will be open throughout the year and it appears from the most recent guidance that school will only be closed in the worst of circumstances.

A full risk assessment has been carried out and will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

We still want to be able to talk to you, support you and work with you, but please bear in mind that we will still need to be cautious.

Return to school - Classes and Year groups:

Children will stay in their classes for most of the time but will be part of a year group 'bubble' of 60, to aid the smooth operation of the school. This means that they will not mix with children in other year groups for any school activities. Break times are split across the school.

During lunchtimes there may be some limited transitional contact with others but we will keep this to a minimum.

Initially our curriculum focus will be upon the well-being of children, settling them back into school and ensuring they are safe and happy and that they understand the new rules and routines in place. We will then develop our timetables accordingly to ensure the needs of all of our children are met. That said, we also need to ensure academic rigour from the outset, so that children can make the progress they need to, and achieve as they should.

Coming to school:

As long as you and your family are well, all children are expected to return. If you or your child is displaying COVID symptoms, then obviously you will need to inform school and take the necessary precautions. Phone 111 or visit www.nhs.co.uk.

Children will only need to bring the minimum into school – their book bag and reading book, water bottle and healthy snack.

Hot dinners are available as usual. Lunchtimes will be staggered for the children, and year groups kept alone as much as possible. Packed lunches will eat in their classrooms, and children eating hot dinners will also be provided for (some in the hall, some in classes). We will review the hall use for hot dinners every week. Please contact the office, or complete the online form sent last week, if you are interested in hot dinners, or bring a packed lunch.

Children with medical items, such as inhalers, will of course need to bring these in, and teachers will contact parents quickly to ensure medical plans are up to date.

Parents dropping off will need to follow the one-way systems in place: please expect some queues and uncertainty on the first couple of days, but we hope it will get smoother quickly.

Uniform and PE:

Children should wear full school uniform. We would encourage children to wear school shoes, but we understand some children may not have them until September.

Children should wear PE kit on days when they have curriculum PE lessons. This should be a white T-shirt and black shorts/jogging bottoms. These should be black.

Face Coverings and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

The guidance explains children do not need to wear masks in school. The children should remove them as they enter school. If you and your children wish to wear them in the street and on the way to school, you are welcome. General advice is that younger children should not wear masks. Teachers will wear masks on doors, drop off and collection, and in public areas around school.

The journey to school:

Please wash your hands as you leave your house. Children will be asked to sanitise upon arrival.

Each year group will have its own entrance and exit point, so that everyone can be spread out. This is so that we can avoid having to assign a start time to individual children. We aim to reduce queues as every class/year group will have their own exit.

We encourage all children to come to school with one adult only.

Clent Road:

- Reception will enter at the back of the building, through the Reception entrances on Wolverhampton Road. Please do not park or stop on Wolverhampton Road: it is a red route and very busy.
- Year 1 will use the Clent Road pedestrian entrance and the main Clent Road entrance.
- Year 2 will use the community hall entrance, but this will be kept under review. (This is a change to avoid use of the carpark, which is not ideal).

Castle Road:

- Parents and carers can use either the main entrance or Wolverhampton Road entrance to access the site.
- Please note that the Wolverhampton Road entrance is narrow, so social distancing is difficult.
- Year 3 will enter through the Year 3 entrance at the back of the Castle Road building.
- Year 4 will use the side entrance, near the Year 5 classes.
- Year 5 will use the small door entrance off the main playground.
- Year 6 will use the mini-car park entrance. Staff are no longer permitted to park in this carpark, so there will be no cars present.

Further details on entry and exit:

Bird's-eye pictures of the school with routes will follow.

- Remain socially distant from others at all times - markings and posters around the school site will help you to maintain this distance. Staff will be outside as often as possible, so please do ask if you need any help.
- Parents will not be able to approach the doors and are not allowed into the school building unless essential. If you need to contact a member of staff, please phone the office or email us. Contact details are on our website.
- Once children are dropped off at their entrance door, please leave the school premises and ensure that you follow any one-way routes.
- Please do not congregate with others, especially at narrow points or school exits.

Early Years

Please note that early years parents will not be allowed to take their children into class – sorry.

Afterwoods Club

Afterwoods will be running. Mr Cutler has been appointed as the Afterwoods leader. More information will be coming about Afterwoods opening as soon as possible: we are still working out plans to keep bubbles of children separate and what that might look like.

Cleaning, COVID and the risks involved

As a school, we have tried our hardest to minimise risks through carrying out a number of risk assessments. However, our school is a public place and there will always be risk, which we will aim to reduce. In the worst cases, we may have to close year groups at short notice if there are confirmed COVID-19 cases and we hope you will understand this.

We have an even stricter cleaning regime than usual and it is important you know that the school use a “hierarchy of controls”. This means we do all of the following:

- 1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell**
- 2. Clean hands often**
- 3. Respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it), including ventilating the school**
- 4. Clean surfaces that are touched frequently**
- 5. Minimise contact and mixing**
- 6. Personal protective equipment (PPE)**

Testing

All staff have access to home ‘lateral flow’ testing kits. We test at home twice a week. Children are not tested.

As a result of our risk assessments, we remind you we have put many safety measures in place including:

- One-way systems around school.
- Children spending time in their year group and not mixing across years.
- Strict hygiene measures, including handwashing.
- Removal of any spare equipment and toys.
- Hand sanitiser available for all.

Let us all hope that with the continued progress we are making with vaccinations and the support of everyone in following the guidelines, we can all move forward and allow lockdown to end. We are hopeful.

Kind regards,

Rob Matthews, Headteacher and Wendy Jackson, Deputy Headteacher