10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we saw the majority of our children return to school after a long period of lockdown for many of them. It was so wonderful to see so many happy faces back in the building, laughing and playing at playtimes, engaged in their learning and joining in with all that was going on. It was a nervous time for all of us on the run up to Monday the 29th, as we all prepared for this significant move forward, but one that was worth it all. I am so proud of us as a whole community and how we have pulled together to do the best for all of our children at Woolpit.

Moving forward to September, the government have released some guidance on what schools will and will not be allowed to do and at this present moment I am looking carefully at how this is all going to work. The message from the government is currently that all children will be expected to return to school in September.

Alongside the government guidance, the classes for September are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | **Teacher** | **Class name** |
| Year Reception | Mrs Holmes -Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  Mrs Brandon – Thursday, Friday | Hedgehog |
| Year 1 and 2 mixed | Mrs Davies – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  Mrs Platt-Nolan – Thursday and Friday | Otter |
| Year 3 | Miss Baker | Badger |
| Year 4 and 5 mixed | Miss Holder | Robin |
| Year 5 and 6 mixed | Mrs Brotherton | Owl |

Due to a fall last year in pupil numbers, we have mixed year groups for years 1, 2 and 4, 5, 6. There are many benefits to having mixed classes, such as having more in a class so that the children have a wider group of children to mix with and learn from when supporting their meta cognition. Having full classes means that children get to experience a whole class setting and the learning atmosphere is more vibrant. I understand that as parents there may be concerns about how the curriculum and learning will be affected by having mixed classes but I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that I have worked with mixed classes previously that have been very successful. We have carefully considered how this will be structured in order to ensure the national curriculum is embedded. Every class, no matter whether they are mixed year group or not, have children with a variety of learning styles which need personalisation. We have spent a considerable amount of time writing a curriculum that is **inspirational** and will develop **resilience** to maximize every child’s potential. As a staff, we have worked really hard on the curriculum that we will be delivering next year and we are very excited about sharing this with the children and parents on their return. Part of this work has been to ensure that expectations will be high for all individuals and that children, regardless of their year group or class, are working at a level that is appropriate for them and they make the best progress that they can.

Lockdown has also given us the opportunity to look at our systems and plan and develop ones that are much more efficient for the school. One of these is that from September we will be a cashless school. This means that we will not be taking payment in cash for anything but it will be done through a service called School Gateway. There are a number of payment options available for you to choose from to pay for things such as dinner money and trips and all of these options will be sent out at the beginning of next term, once it all goes live.

The website for ordering new school uniform with our new logo on also went live last week and you are now able to purchase these items. I have been happy to hear such positive feedback on this when talking to many of you on the school gate and I am very excited to see children in them. As mentioned before, children will still be able to wear the old logo for a 2-year period so that we can integrate the new one in slowly. The link for the new uniform is below:

<https://directschoolwear.co.uk/find-my-school/primary-schools/woolpit-primary-academy.html>

In September, breakfast club on site will not be running in the short term. Part of this decision is that we would like it to be looked at to ensure the provision is the best that it can, places are booked and allocated in order for us to plan the provision accordingly but also due to the current restrictions it has meant that we do not have the efficient staff to run it. It will be a book and pay in advance system connected to our new online payment system which will go live in September. The ARC will continue to provide this service while we manage to staff and structure this service on a paid basis over the coming year. Ms Elomri will be running a very small invite only breakfast club for a select few pupil premium children when the guidance allows us to do this.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new amazing school cook Mrs Hitch, who is now running our kitchen. She took over the kitchen at the beginning of lockdown and has been very driven to provide the best school dinners that she can. The hot lunches that have been served up during this time have been very well received and we have even had children that do not usually have hot dinners come in and have them. We are having lots of discussions about how we can make hot dinners appeal to the majority of our children and again we have lots in the pipe line for this service.

We have been made aware of this fantastic charity called the teapot project, <https://www.theteapotproject.net/>! They are a Suffolk based charity and sell unsold surplus food from supermarkets, produce otherwise destined for waste, they cater for everyone, giving priority to those struggling through the impacts of Covid-19. By ordering from them, you not only help the environment, saving perfectly good food from going to waste, causing unnecessary carbon emissions, you are also helping those who are struggling to pay for food: we offer everything on a Pay As Your Feel Basis, so those of you who can afford to pay the full price, offset those who can't.

Have a great last week of term.

Kind Regards

Mrs Clayton

Headteacher