



Our Value for this term is Courage

A note from the Head

Welcome back! It has been so lovely to see Years 1 – 4 return to school again. Your children are amazing and have shown tremendous resilience, arriving in their new classrooms ready and eager to learn. The press has written a lot about the damage to the lives of our children from being off school for such a long time, but our early assessments of their mental health and willingness to crack on suggest they will be fine. The first couple of weeks will be about settling them into new routines and rules and we will then aim for them to fill any gaps in their learning of where they should be for their age and make accelerated progress as the academic year progresses.

That said I don't expect the year to be a smooth one with regard to pupil or staff attendance given the Government rules regarding the need to isolate and current reported frailties in the Covid testing system. Pupils and staff must remain at home if:

- they have any symptoms of Coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste)
- tested positive for Coronavirus – this means they have Coronavirus
- live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in their support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace
- arrive in the UK from a country with a high Coronavirus risk

Please bear with us if staffing changes at short notice, we can only do our best in the circumstances.

In response to this, we have developed a staged approach to potential home learning:

- On the website there will be some standalone learning you can access if your child displays one of the Covid symptoms and is awaiting test results before returning to school.
- In the event that a class is sent home to isolate for 14 days we have then developed 2-3 days of different work to start this isolation period. As the teacher will be isolating at the same time, during the initial few days, they will create a more interactive learning module that will be based on the learning the rest of the year group will be taught in school over that time period. The ambition is for the pupils isolating at home to keep pace with the rest of the cohort in school and return at the same point in their learning.

Hand Gel

Lots of pupils are now bringing in their own hand gel and we would caution against this. The pitfalls of hand sanitiser are that it doesn't work properly on sweaty, greasy or visibly dirty hands, and you need to use a lot to completely cover the entire surface of your hands. Repeated use of alcohol-based hand sanitiser can irritate your skin too, despite many containing moisturising agents. To have an impact on the Coronavirus we understand it also needs to have at least 60% alcohol content.

To ensure appropriate use of these gels, the teachers will keep any gels sent into school out of reach of the children and will provide them on request.

Instead of using gels we recommend frequent hand washing using soap and water. This is already scheduled into the day for all pupils and we feel the use of gel over and above this is not required and will increase the risk of irritation.

Drop off and Collection

To support the safety measures in school can we politely remind you that only one adult should drop off and collect, and that collection should be made at the allocated time per the table below. Also, please maintain the 2 metre social distance at all times.

From Monday at our Bedford Road site children should be dropped off in the front playground and they can then make their own way round to their classes. We appreciate this is a big step for our new year 2s but this is a safe way to develop their independence.

Thank you for your support in this.

Sealions	3.00
Starfish	3.15
Seahorses	3.00
Jellyfish	3.15
Turtles	3.00
Seals	3.15
Penguins	3.00
Pelicans	3.15
Pufferfish	3.15
Lobsters	3.30
Puffins	3.30
Swordfish	3.15
Porpoises	3.30
Stingrays	3.30
Sharks	3.15
Dolphins	3.30
Clownfish	3.15

NB If you have been given a duplicate collection time across both sites, please collect your youngest child first and then collect from Bedford Road (we acknowledge this will not be at the allocated time at Bedford Road).

Snacks and Drinks

As part of our remit of being a 'Healthy School', we would be grateful if you could only send your child into school with a healthy snack, e.g. a piece of fruit or vegetable. Can we also remind you that water bottles should contain water, not squash or fruit juice. Thank you.

Junk Modelling

Year 1 are asking for small boxes of assorted shapes, kitchen roll middles (not toilet rolls), interesting paper or bits to 'add on' to models so they can create some junk modelling master pieces as part of their learning. Please drop them into the school office in a carrier bag so they can be quarantined. Many thanks.

School Dinners for Year 3 and 4

Please note that the Universal Free School Meals supplied by the Government stop at Year 2. School dinners from Year 3 must be paid for in advance by cash or cheque (payable to Caterlink) and cost £2.15 per day. Please send payment in a named container or envelope either weekly, monthly or termly. Many thanks.

Medicines

Please can you ensure that all relevant medicines eg Inhalers, Epipens have been handed into the school office, clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Also, just a quick reminder that it is the parent's responsibility to check the expiry date on any medication handed in. Thank you.

Electronic Newsletter

Our school newsletter is emailed out each Friday and is also available on the school website. To sign up to receive an emailed copy please visit: <http://www.woottonlowerschool.org/newsletter.html>
Paper copies will still be available from the school office on request.