

Green Park Avenue, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV14 6EH

Phone: 01902556463

Email: StowlawnPrimary.GroupEmail@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Website: www.stowlawnprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs K Charles

May 17th 2020

Dear parents / carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

I hope that you are all OK and staying safe. First of all I would like to thank you for the support you are giving your children and the school, with the fantastic home learning that is taking place.

I am writing to you to let you know arrangements for the children who **may** able to return from June 1st, and, following current guidelines from the Government and the Local Authority, what this will look like for the children. There is *lots* of information in this letter, but we felt that we needed to let you know all of the information, so you can make an informed choice when deciding to send your child into school at this time.

If the government does decide that these year groups can return from June 1^{st} , it will be done gradually to ensure the safety of all children and staff. It will also be in line with recommendations from Wolverhampton Local Authority.

Until we know for definite if, or how many children, will be returning to school, we do not know if this will be full-time of part-time. Part-time would involve 1,2 or 3 full days in school – reserving time in between different groups of children to ensure that classrooms being used are cleaned thoroughly.

We will update you on days of return and times for the school day as soon as we can.

What we do know!

At some point after 1st June, parents are being asked to send children back to school if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

It is being made clear that if you choose not to send your child at the moment, there will be no fine issued.

There will be a staggered start to year groups coming back to school. **NOT ALL OF THE YEAR GROUPS will come** back to school on the same day.

Children will have to come into school at staggered times, and be collected at staggered times, therefore not all children will be able to complete a full day – this is because it will be impossible to follow social distancing guidelines with everyone accessing the school site at the same time.

Before your child comes back to school, we ask that you talk to them about the following arrangements, and how important it is that they are followed. We ask that you support us to ensure the safety of both your child, your family, and the staff in school.



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If your child returns to school and cannot follow the guidelines, then we shall follow advice to carry out a "risk assessment" which will evaluate whether your child is able to stay in school safely. Following this it may be the case that your child will not be able to come into school, as they are putting themselves, families and staff at risk of contracting or spreading any infection. We understand that this sounds very unkind, but as the guidance explains, we have to consider the safety of all members of our school community.

Start and end of school day

You will be asked to only use the specified areas of school that parents are allowed to be in and use the agreed entrance and exits – these will be communicated at a later date. Entry onto the campus will be through the normal Green Park Avenue gate. Parents will not be able to access the Willows campus or entrance, and must stay to the Stowlawn side of the taped off area. Parents cannot enter the school playgrounds, and must leave children at these gates to enter school – staff will of course be on hand to assist the children.

Parents will need to:

- Enter through the campus gate but stay Stowlawn side of the taped off entrance area.
- Adhere to social distancing of 2m (when waiting to drop off or collect children using markers that indicate 2m)
- Leave school premises immediately once children are either dropped off or collected
- Adhere to the strict start and end times (entrance to the school site will be locked after the specified start time)
- Arrive punctually at the time allocated for the child's year group and collect them promptly.
- Children cannot be admitted late or through a different entrance.
- Only one parent/carer can drop off or collect a child (this does not have to be the same person for pick up and drop off)
- If a child is very distressed because of the arrangements and social distancing, we will request you take them home.

THERE WILL BE NO ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE— contact will continue to be through telephone or email only as our school office will remain closed to parents during this time.

Within the school day

All the arrangements we are putting in place are in line with guidelines we have received so far. We shall, of course, endeavour to work within these guidelines. It is inevitable that, because children are children, that social distancing especially may be difficult to adhere to at times!



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Children will use the same entrance and exit, classroom, table, resources and toilets, and be taught by the same staff members every day they are in school. A team of 2 or 3 staff will teach each group, and they will not be mixing with any other groups or children.

Dependant on numbers and ages of children who come to school, Reception and Year 1 children may be mixed year groups, and all children may not be taught by their current class teacher. Staff and children must wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds across the school day, particularly:

- After coming in to school
- After sneezing and coughing
- Before and after handling or eating food
- After going to the toilet

Children must adhere to social distancing measures of 2m apart throughout all areas of school including:

- the classroom
- corridors
- toilets
- the playground (this is the most problematic area, and though each group will play in a different area, we may not be able to totally enforce social distancing in this area)

Children will only use the equipment allocated to them (this equipment will be cleaned before the next session). Government advice states that the wearing of a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is **not recommended**. Therefore, children **will not be able to wear them in school**. This is because staff are not able to help children put them on and off, and the children increase any risk of catching or passing on the infection by messing with areas around their face and mouth. However, staff do have the option to wear PPE protection, such as masks and gloves, so children may see them in these items throughout the day.

Lunch/ Snacks

- Our school kitchens and servery are a shared area with Green Park School. Due to the vulnerability of children at Green Park, children will not be accessing this part of the school.
- Parents will need to provide a packed lunch for their child, which will be eaten in the classroom, in the child's allocated space.



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- Children will need to bring water in a water bottle with a sports type cap which they can access throughout the day.
- Free fruit deliveries are not happening at the moment, so you may wish to include an extra healthy snack for your child to have at morning breaktime.

Free School Meals

If you receive free school meals vouchers, the next ones will be provided up until 5th June. This means if your child is in school from 1st June to 5th June, you must send them with a packed lunch for this week.

From 8th June, if your child is in school, you will not receive free school meal vouchers, and school will provide their packed lunch. This will be delivered daily to them in their classroom.

Learning

When in school, children will be completing basic skills maths and English learning, such as using times tables rockstars, reading, spelling and phonics. We shall then be completing other work set online for children who are not attending school, including themed work around different topics. Due to social distancing restrictions, we shall not be able to teach how we usually do, with interactive pair and group sessions.

If your child is not in school, then they will still be able to learn at home through the work being set online by their teachers.

Symptoms of Covid 19

In school if your child presents with symptoms you will be contacted immediately. Children will wait in a designated area, in isolation, until they can be collected. You and the rest of your family **must** then self-isolate for the next 14 days before returning to school.

If any member of the household presents with symptoms your child **must NOT** come to school and needs to self-isolate for 14 days at home. Please notify school on the first day of self-isolation.

If a child or member of staff tests positive for Covid19, school will follow guidelines from the government around closure of a group/ year group or school according to contact child has had with others.



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Parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will now be sent a text survey, asking you whether you will definitely be sending your child in to school from June 1st. Please respond to this survey by the end of Wednesday 20th May, as we need to put measures in place for the amount of children we will be receiving in school. If we do not receive a response, we will presume you are choosing NOT to send your child into school.

Unfortunately, school cannot run as we want to, and we are not sure when our old "normal" will become "normal" again. However, the children do need to come back to school at some point and we shall strive to make sure that, despite our safety measures and restrictions, we make school a happy place where the children can continue with their learning. It will certainly be hard to keep our distance, but this is what we will have to do at the moment to ensure the safety of everyone at this difficult time.

We hope that you are reassured that we have followed all the guidelines available to us, and that we are acting in a way that will continue to keep everyone as safe as possible. It is also important that you know that our Chair of Governors, Steve Nicholls, and the rest of our governors, fully support the decisions being taken, and would also like to thank you for the support you are giving to the school. Both myself, and the governors, would also like to give our personal thanks to all of the Stowlawn staff for the hard work they are doing at this time.

This remains a worrying and stressful time for us all, but we will continue to support you, our Stowlawn community, as much as we can, and we thank you for the trust you are putting in us to make the right decisions for your children.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Charles

Mrs Charles