

2nd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next week! School starts on Monday, 6th September 2021.

CLENT ROAD:

As you know, Reception and Key Stage 1 classes (Clent Road site) register at 9am. We would like children to be in school by 8:55am so that we can register them and start lessons promptly at 9am. The site will open at 8:45am so that everyone can get into school smoothly and calmly.

Reception classes will enter from the Wolverhampton Road gate. Year 1 and Year 2 will use the main pathway to the school. Year 1 will enter through the main entrance, while Year 2 parents can walk through the small wooden gate and children will enter the rear 2 door.

We will no longer use the car park entrances for children or parents.

Children in Year 1 and 2 can be collected from the main playground at the end of the school day, which will be 3:30pm for both year groups.

CASTLE ROAD:

As usual, for Year 3,4,5,6, doors will open at 8:35am with registration at 8:45am. We would like children to be in school by 8:40am so that we can register them and start lessons promptly at 8.45. All entrances and exits remain the same. Year 3 enter at the rear of the building at the top of the ramp, Year 4 enter via the old main entrance half way down the playground, Year 5 enter via the door off the upper playground, and Year 6 via the rear of the Year 6 classroom.

Children will be collected from the same doors at the end of the day.

SCHOOL WIDE INFORMATION:

Of course, everyone's safety is the most important consideration for all of us.

As you may have heard reported in the press, schools are 'back to normal' in education and while there are a number of things returning to pre-covid state, there are a number of precautions we will be taking during the Autumn term to fulfil our duty of care to the school community as a whole.

We have summarised these below.

The full Risk Assessment is/will be available on our website.

Risk / required area of action:	Actions taken or continuing (September 2021):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The promotion of testing and vaccination (required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff encouraged to undertake regular LFT testing. • PCR testing for symptomatic and immediate close contacts will be required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The continuation of stringent hand and respiratory hygiene (required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Catch it, kill it, bin it” in force across school. • All hand washing and hand sanitiser regimes continue. • Cough into elbow and other respiratory hygiene measures still in place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The continuation of stringent cleaning regimes (required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning regime continues as before. • Clean down during day on key elements and contact points continues. • Cleaning staff aware.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Good ventilation – improvement of fresh air flow (required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows required to be open, and classroom doors to encourage fresh air through the building.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Avoiding unnecessary close contacts with external groups e.g. parent gatherings (considered best practice) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblies limited to phases, no whole school assemblies. • Year groups will not mix, except in phase • At Lightwoods, we have separate buildings for the upper and lower school, which is a site-specific advantage for us. • Therefore, we have 2 staffrooms, and staff are encouraged to limit staff room use. • Parent gatherings minimised. • Parent and external visits “when needed”. A lower test than “essential”, but they will not be routine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promoting distancing and face covering in areas of congestion/crowding for example parents at the school gate (considered best practice) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above – promoting social distancing within school. • Lower school and upper school have staggered starts. • Split site advantage means minimal contact between sites. • Separate entrances for Tinywoods, R, 1/2, 3,4,5,6. (Year 1 and 2 share main entrance) • Packed lunches remain in classrooms, “year by year” use of lower school dining hall (not all at once).

Additionally:

- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas, and the government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. You may still see staff wearing masks around the school site, and you are welcome to wear one when visiting school too, if it makes you feel more comfortable.
- Assemblies will take place in 'phases', (e.g. year 3 and 4 together) rather than whole key stages at the moment. Parents will not be invited into assemblies yet, but we hope to restart this later in the year.

ISOLATION RULES

Currently, the guidance around isolation is as follows:

Children will need to self-isolate for 10 days if they test positive for Covid-19.

Their close contacts will not need to self-isolate if they are fully vaccinated or if they are under 18 years and 6 months old.

You will also need to self-isolate if you arrive in the UK from a **red list country** or are an adult who has not been fully vaccinated and you arrive in the UK from an **amber list country**.

Fully vaccinated adults in the UK do not have to self-isolate for 10 days if they are told they have been in close contact with a person who has Covid.

In **England**, you are advised **to take a PCR test** as soon as possible if you are notified of a close contact with someone with Covid. You are not required to self-isolate while waiting for the result.

If the result is negative, no further action is needed. However, you are advised to take extra measures like wearing face coverings in enclosed spaces and limiting contact with others, especially the clinically vulnerable.

PE KITS

We will keep the rules for PE kits the same as in the Summer: **on PE days, please wear your PE kit to school**. We are aiming to switch back to normal uniform and to children bringing in a PE kit later in the year.

CLUBS

Clubs are returning shortly and we will inform you separately of all clubs.

AFTERWOODS:

Drop off and pick up from Afterwoods will be from the community hall doors (on Clent Road) for this term, which should be easier and quicker for all of you.

If you have any questions about Afterwoods, please ask at the office.

I realise this letter is long, and thank you for reading it all if you have got this far! We hope that it helps you feel better prepared for Monday.

If you do have any questions for us, please just get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mr Matthews,

Principal.



LIGHTWOODS
PRIMARY ACADEMY