



Education Resources
Executive Director Tony McDaid
Woodside Primary
Head Teacher: Elaine Renwick

Woodie News September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Our big building is back alive once again with the happy chatter of our 472 children, albeit with some changes from when we left in March. As I have already said, the children have coped extremely well with our new routines and systems, which has been incredible.

We are continuing to evaluate the school day as the safety and well being of pupils and staff is our number one priority. The whole staff team are a part of this process and all have a role to play in ensuring the smooth operation of our school day. A massive 'Thank You' for the patience, flexibility and commitment shown. It's been a challenging start to a new term, but the team spirit and dedication continues to flourish in Woodside.

We are trying where possible to ensure all children remain within their 'class bubble' throughout the day. We introduced class zones within the playground and our split playtimes and lunchtimes for the P1-3 and P4-7 pupils. This reduces numbers outside and allows classmates to stay in their zones at break times. We use the gym hall for packed lunches, giving us enough space to accommodate 'class bubbles' for both school dinners and packed lunches too!

The children are frequently washing their hands throughout the day and extra sanitising stations are positioned throughout the building. The children can access these at any time.

The staggered start and end to the day, and the use of the three school gates is helping greatly to reduce the amount of people gathering around the school. This was always going to be a challenge in Woodside with our large numbers and very limited space outside however we believe this is working as smoothly as it can. We know this is difficult when your children are starting and finishing at different times, but please know that we do appreciate your patience and support at this challenging time.

This week the children have completed a return to school questionnaire in class. This will allow us to gather how they feel being back in school and what they thought of the new routines in Woodside. As always, they gave their teachers honest answers! You can read some of their comments at the end of this newsletter. We emailed out a parental questionnaire on your Parent Pay account, please take a few minutes to read and return back to us. This will let us know how you as parents/carers are feeling about school being back and how we can support our families moving forward.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding school, please do not hesitate to give us a wee call. Although we are socially distanced, we are here to help!

Kind regards,
Elaine Renwick
Head Teacher

Woodside Primary, Johnstone Road, Hamilton, ML3 7JR Phone: 01698 427811

Email: gw14woodsidepsoffice@glow.sch.uk

Website: www.woodside-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



Dates For Your Diary

24th Sep	Flu vaccinations
25th Sep	Holiday
28th Sep	Holiday
29th Sep	INSET day . Children not in school.
2nd Oct	Newsletter Online
12th - 16th Oct	Holiday
6th Nov	Newsletter Online
16th Nov	INSET day. Children not in school.

White envelope

Thank you to everyone who has returned the large white envelope containing



important school information. Due to the current situation we have to leave these for 72 hours before they can be opened. This is a massive job and our office team are making their way through the giant pile and updating any details. Please can I ask all parents to sign into Parent Pay. Even if you are not using the school dinner system this is the quickest way for us to share communication with you. If you have any problems accessing the system please contact our office and someone will help you.



Woodie News-September 2020

Our Recovery Curriculum Rationale - Stage 1

It's not just the routines in our school that have changed. As the children have not been with us since March we need to assess where they are in their learning and think carefully about the curriculum we are delivering. It can't be business as normal and we don't expect the children to pick up where they left off. We want to ensure our children settle back into school life and that they are ready to start learning again. This process is going to take some time as teachers need to build relationships, connect with their class and respond to their learning needs. To help you understand what we are covering in school at the moment, I have outlined a brief summary of our Recovery Curriculum Plan.

At present, in line with government guidelines, our priorities are :- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-Being. We are initially focussing on the core skills in these areas at all stages throughout school.

In Literacy the focus is on :- Reading skills, comprehension, phonics and de coding of words

- Writing skills, pencil control, sentence structure
- Talking and Listening skills, turn taking, asking questions

In Numeracy the focus is on :- Number properties, Number sequences and + - ÷ x

In Health and Well-being the focus is on :- Mental and emotional well being

Physical well being

Physical Education will take place outdoors. For this reason we are happy for your child to wear joggers or leggings along with their school sweater for PE. Obviously, this will be weather dependent!

As we are in our recovery phase the children will not be receiving the whole curriculum yet. However, we asked them to vote on which subjects they would like. The two most popular were :- Science and ICT.

Miss Officer, Mrs Faloon, Mrs Aitcheson and Mr Williamson will deliver these areas when they are in classes each week.

Our Recovery Curriculum will be continually monitored and I will keep you updated with progress and changes.

Google Classroom

Throughout lockdown we used 'Google Classroom' as a way of delivering online learning and remaining in contact with all our children. This will continue to be our contingency plan if ever needed. You will receive your child's username and a generic password which **YOU MUST** change. This will be in their school bag tonight along with a help sheet. Please can I ask all parents and children to log in to ensure they can access this from home. If you require any support or have issues with the log in please email:- gw14woodsidepsict@glow.sch.uk

As all jotters and reading books going home have to be quarantined for 72 hours on their return to school, teachers, where they can will use 'Google Classroom' to set homework tasks. Over the next few weeks teachers will start to post short tasks to be completed at home, to help support their classes re engage with this way of working. Not all homework can be completed online and in infant classes, a different approach will be necessary. More information about this will follow soon. Please make sure your child knows their new password and has it noted somewhere safe, like their pencil case or a notebook in their bag.

Baby Bisett

Congratulations to Mrs Bisett who welcomed baby Alfie into the world on Friday 28th August. Both Mummy and baby are doing very well. We all think he looks super cute!



Parent Council

We are lucky to have a very supportive and active Parent Council in Woodside. They too however, are having to change their usual style, and are starting by holding their first 'online' meeting on Thursday 10th September at 7pm. If you wish to be included in this online meeting please email :woodsideparentcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

It would be great to see and welcome any new parents wishing to getting involved.



Woodie News-September 2020

Hot off the Press– Woodside went **LIVE** on You Tube last night ! Our Primary 1 teachers shared the learning and teaching approach used in their classes. Hopefully, our Primary 1 parents will find this information informative and help them with ways to support their child at home. If you missed it please tune in on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL_rhSVn9cA

What our pupils said

We are now 3 weeks into the 'new norm' at Woodside. This week we asked the all the children what they thought about being back at school and also their opinion on our new routines. Here are some of their comments:-

What do you like ?

I like doing PE outdoors.



I like the separate lunches in the dinner hall and gym hall.



Having our own class table at lunchtime.

I like having my own zone to play in as the big ones don't annoy us.



I just like being back at school!



Seeing my friends again.

Having my own personal tray with my own things in it.

The lanyards for going to the toilet.



Having no Assemblies.

What do you not like?

Not spending time with my big/wee Buddie.



Staying in my playground zone so I can't chat to other friends.



Having to always wash my hands.

Having no equipment for PE.

Waking up earlier because my brother has to go to school early.

Masks on the bus

Mobile Phones

I have noticed that a large number of our children are bringing mobile phones into school. Please can you stress to them that these must be kept turned off and kept in their schoolbags as soon as they enter the playground in the morning and not turned on until they leave the playground at 3.00pm.



Bus bay

Please leave the bus bay clear for our school buses in the morning and at the end of the day.



Thank you.