



Headteacher: Mrs Suzanne Jones

## Woodcote Primary School

Willowbrook Close  
Ashby-de-la-Zouch  
Leicestershire  
LE65 1JX  
01530 417007

Office21@woodcote.leics.sch.uk

[www.woodcoteprimary.com](http://www.woodcoteprimary.com)

Twitter: @WoodcoteSchool

6<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today to let you know of an initiative that we will be introducing over the coming weeks in preparation for the Summer Term.

As you may be aware, we were awarded the Route to Resilience Accreditation for our work in preparing the children for life through developing characteristics for learning (or 'Character Muscles' as they're also referred to). As part of this we have been working hard to build the children's independence which is why we have been encouraging children to come into school independently in the mornings.

To build upon this and to further develop the children's independence skills, after Easter we will be asking you to drop your child at the school gate in the mornings and they will walk around to their classroom with their friends. We know that many of our children already do this successfully and for them there will be no change. We are letting you know about this now, so that you can help to prepare your child for this transition, perhaps by encouraging your child to carry their own bags etc. A similar system was introduced the the Breakfast Club earlier this year and we have found that the children have responded positively. The arrangements for Breakfast Club will remain unchanged.

In addition to developing your child's independence, the new arrangements will assist with safeguarding your children. A member of staff will always be on the gate from 8.40 – 8.50am, at which point the gate will be locked and any children arriving late can be taken to and signed in at the office. This will ensure that only the children, staff and known visitors will be within the school grounds.

On the following page we have answered some questions that you might have regarding the changes; however if you have any additional concerns, we would welcome and encourage you to come and talk to Mrs Jones or your child's classteacher over the coming weeks. We will happily discuss these changes in more depth and answer any questions that you may have.

We are really hope that you will see the positives to this change and will support us in preparing your child by encouraging them to take responsibility for their belongings at the start of the day. If you have any feedback about this or wish to clarify anything, please do not hesitate to get in contact and we will happily any queries that you may have.

Kind regards,

Suzanne Jones  
Headteacher



***Will I still be able to collect my child from their classroom at the end of the day?***

The arrangements for the afternoons have not changed. Staff will continue to bring the children to their classroom door and you will be able to have a chat with the teacher.

***What if I have a message to give to my child's teacher?***

Mrs Foster and Mrs Wilcox will be in the office and will write down any messages ready to pass onto the classteacher. The teacher will be able to telephone you if necessary during the day. The teachers will also still be available at the end of the school day if you wish to speak to them personally.

***What if my child struggles to take their coat off?***

The children already independently get themselves ready for playtime and lunchtime during the day. However, the staff always help the children if they are struggling. During the school day even some of our youngest children are able to get their coats on and off, and get themselves changed for PE with the minimum of help; the children are proud of themselves when they learn to achieve this independently.

***How can I be sure that my child will make it to the classroom?***

A member of school staff will be on the school gate every day. The children will be unable to go back through the gate and it will be locked before the member of staff leaves. The school is a secure site and by doing this we are increasing our security and therefore keeping your children safer. The teacher, or Teaching Assistant, will greet the younger children at the classroom door (as they currently do). The children who have the furthest to walk alone are the oldest in the school; we are preparing these children for their next stage of education where they are likely to walk to school alone.

***What if I forget to give my child something? (i.e. their Bookbag)***

You can hand the item into the school office and we will ensure that it is passed onto your child. Any larger equipment (i.e. cello) can be dropped off at the office and your child can collect it from there after dropping off their coat and bag in their cloakroom.

***Will I still feel welcome to come into school?***

We believe strongly in working in partnership with our families and it is one of our strengths. We always welcome parents and carers to participate in school life; for example through assemblies, open afternoons, science fairs, volunteers, our active PTFA and sharing of expertise. Whilst the mornings may seem strange to you at first, we are doing this to benefit all of the children and help them with their independence. The children will be able to quickly settle to their learning and will learn how to take care of their own belongings, developing their organisation skills, which will help them as they get older. With our current arrangements, the teachers are not really available to talk at the beginning of the day, as this can postpone their lessons from starting. They will continue to be available at the end of the day and look forward to chatting to you then.