



## The Woodlands Community Primary School

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Head Teacher Mr J. Baker



Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome to The Woodlands, we are delighted that you have chosen our School and are so excited to be able to welcome your child through our gates in September. When I had the pleasure of meeting so many of you during our open afternoons back in the Autumn term, I certainly did not imagine we would be planning your child's transition into school under these circumstances! I have no doubt that the impact of COVID-19 on our usual transition arrangements is causing some concerns and uncertainty for you. However, we want to reassure you that we will do everything possible to provide the most positive start to primary school under these circumstances.

To begin to help your child with transition we have taken some photographs of the Reception setting and put them into a booklet. We hope you will find it useful to start sharing these with your child so they can become familiar with their new environment, even if only virtually. We have also included a checklist of basic skills that you can use to prepare your child for starting school.

To give your child the most settled and personalised start to school, we would usually offer the following to aid transition:

- Stay and Play/Story Time Sessions
- Parent Workshops
- Pre-School visits and Communication
- Parent Phone calls
- 2 Week September Staggered Start.

In line with the Government guidance, subject to updates and the consideration of the health and safety of our staff, we aim to offer as much of this as possible although social distancing may require us to be a little more creative in our approach.

Although we welcomed some of our Year R children back into school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, they will be experiencing a very different environment and provision. We have considered carefully the advantages and disadvantages of trying to facilitate a visit to the Woodlands for your child, before the Summer holiday. Based on this, we feel very uneasy about their first experience of school being so different to what it would be under 'normal circumstances'. Our view is that it could be very unsettling for them so at this current time the stay and play sessions will not go ahead. Instead, we will be reviewing the approach we ordinarily use in September, to accommodate some additional transition opportunities. We are likely to receive further guidance from the Government as the COVID-19 situation allows them to make decisions regarding transition. As soon as we know more, we will update you. Our Reception teachers are currently in the process of contacting all of our pre-school settings thus enabling us to gather as much information as we can. We also hope that we can start to make phone calls to yourselves to give you an opportunity to ask questions and share more information about your child.

In the meantime, should you have any queries, please contact the School Office on 01827 429020.

Please try not to worry about how our current circumstances may impact on your child starting school. Every child is in a similar position; many will not have accessed pre-school for an extended period of time and all children will be missing play and social interaction with others their own age. Our team will be very sensitive to this when making plans for their provision when they start school. Nothing matters more to us than your child walking into school with a big, confident smile on their face.

Wishing all our new families the very best.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Laffan

Assistant Head EY and KS1

