



Head teacher: Mrs M Davis  
Deputy Head: Mrs J Fawkes

Woodside Primary School  
Brierley Road  
Ruardean Woodside  
Gloucestershire  
GL17 9XP  
Tel: 01594 542287  
head@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk

[www.woodside.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.woodside.gloucs.sch.uk)

## Re: Parent feedback about care provision places

Dear Parents and Carers,

14.05.20

We hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well. We really miss you all and would love everything to be back to normal, but we know that will be a while yet. It is wonderful to know that children are engaging with their teachers through Tapestry, class emails and learning platforms we are using. Well done to everyone who took part in the TTR competition, too!

I am writing to you to gauge your thoughts and feelings further, following the government announcement this weekend for the potential return to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June for some children. It is of the utmost importance that we ensure any possible return to school is safe, carefully considered and right for our children, parents, staff and community.

Currently the government are saying the following may return, from 1<sup>st</sup> June, if conditions are right:

Group 1: Pre-school, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children

Group 2: Children of key workers

Group 3: Vulnerable children and those with Education Health Care Plans

We have already contacted parents of children in Group 1 to find out their views. Many thanks for all the emails we have received.

To help inform our decisions, **I am now asking for parents of children in Groups 2 and 3 to contact us** to indicate whether they intend sending their child to the care provision from 1<sup>st</sup> June. This is because currently, children of key workers, vulnerable children and those with EHCPs have been encouraged to stay at home if possible. This will change from 1<sup>st</sup> June to schools being asked to encourage those children to be in school. Please be assured that the DfE state that parents will not be penalised if they do not send their children to school, as I understand that the announcement caused a lot of anxiety for some.

Please could you email Mrs Matthews at [gmatthews@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:gmatthews@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk) if your child is in Group 2 or 3, indicating whether your child will continue to stay at home or will join the care provision from 1<sup>st</sup> June. The parents of children who already use care provision do not need to confirm their place, thank you. The care provision runs from 9am to 3pm Mon-Fri. Parents of children with EHCPs who indicate they would like to return will be contacted for arrangements to be discussed.

Although we have completed risk assessments and are planning a range of stringent measures to minimise risk (eg staggered start and finish times, separated zones for groups, increased infection control amongst others), we acknowledge that very young children even in small groups find it difficult to keep 2m apart and schools cannot guarantee that for parents.

If all eligible children returned on the 1<sup>st</sup> June this would be over 55% of our pupils. The recent Parentkind survey noted the vast majority of parents were registering concern about a return to school. Union advice and our teaching profession echo this concern.

Please note that schools are being asked to plan for children to return **from 1<sup>st</sup> June** not **on 1<sup>st</sup> June** and there is no guarantee as yet that schools can provide a safe environment for staff and children. Advice to school leaders is that any phased return has to be managed with extreme caution and care so that all necessary protective measures can be put in place. This may mean it becomes necessary to take a much more gradual approach than the government has indicated.

While the government has said that it believes it may be possible to welcome back more pupils from the 1 June, school leaders, in consultation with their governing bodies, will remain responsible for evaluating whether and how it might be safe to expand the number of pupils attending their schools, subject to a risk assessment based on the specific circumstances of the school. This may mean that it is not possible for schools to bring back all the pupils the government has indicated it would like to see back in school from the 1 June.

The Government may well issue more information and the proposals may change, but we want to know how you feel about this proposed phased return so that we can plan with your thoughts in mind. You are of course able to change your mind; we are not asking you to make a final decision but to share your viewpoint and decisions will be informed by your views.

Please contact us through [gmatthews@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:gmatthews@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk) by 5pm Monday 18th May.

Best wishes,

Mrs Davis