

Woodham Walter C of E (VC) Primary School

The Street - Woodham Walter - Maldon - Essex - CM9 6RF

Executive Headteacher - Mr P.J.Brown B.Ed Hons (NPQH)

Head of School - Mrs S.Dodd B.A. (Hons) PGCE

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Dear Parents and carers,

We hope this letter finds you well and that you have been able to enjoy some relaxing family time over the summer break. With just over a week to go until we return to school on Thursday 2nd September we are writing to you all to let you know about the arrangements for the start of the new academic year.

All Saints' - Woodham Walter Partnership

The new term sees the beginning of this exciting partnership, as well as continuing to work with the other Seven Spires Schools.

Mr Brown as Executive Headteacher of the two schools will be working at both sites, but will principally be at Woodham Walter at the end of the week and Mrs Dodd as Head of School will be at Woodham Walter between Monday and Wednesday.

Mr Brown has worked in Primary education for 25 years, 20 of which have been at All Saints C of E Primary School in which he has worked as a member of the teaching staff, as deputy Headteacher, Co Headteacher and most recently as Headteacher for the past 6 years. Mrs Dodd and Mr Brown have worked closely during this time both as part of the Blackwater Partnership and most recently as part of the Seven Spires Partnership.

The values, ethos and visions of both schools are very closely aligned and we have no doubt that this will be a really exciting partnership but most importantly one that will continue to ensure that we are able to 'nurture lifelong learners' and make a difference to the pupils of Woodham Walter C of E Primary School.

We know that you will extend a warm welcome to Mr Brown as well as other new members of staff joining the school. Mrs Jill Baker joins the school as our SENCo and Mrs Anna Fiddes and Mrs Lisa Spelling join our office team. Mrs Jackie Robinson also joins our dedicated team of support staff supporting pupils in school. You will have the opportunity to meet these staff in the coming weeks.

COVID 19 Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning

The safety of pupils, staff and parents continues to be of paramount importance to everyone at Woodham Walter C of E Primary School as we learn to live in a world with COVID 19. The Department for Education have released updated guidance for school settings during the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic and consequently the school has updated it's risk assessment.

This risk assessment is a much more streamlined document, largely due to the removal of the 'bubble' system which was previously in place and with pupils now able to mix in school more freely, things like assemblies, playtimes and dining arrangements become more easily managed.

The guidance is also clear in that should a pupil or adult test positive in school, close contacts will not need to self isolate and therefore we would hope to guard against whole classes having to self isolate. However should, what is classed as an 'outbreak' occur - where 5 or more pupils or adults in close proximity test positive within a 10 day period - the school contingency plans will then need to take effect. This could include measures such as that class returning to a bubble.

In continuing to ensure the safety of everyone in school there will continue to be rigorous cleaning twice daily. The Government will be supplying carbon dioxide monitors to monitor ventilation levels in class. Children will continue to be encouraged to have high levels of hygiene with regular handwashing and staff who in the most part are fully vaccinated will continue to complete twice weekly testing.

Through these measures we hope to enjoy greater freedoms in school whilst maintaining safe practices. Wherever possible please continue to communicate through email or telephone calls but if you do need to speak to an adult in class urgently then please do so whilst respecting distancing measures. We will continue to make ourselves available outside at the beginning and end of the day at the front of the school to assist with any enquiries you might have.

The start and end of the day

We will continue to start the day through a drop off window, with the school gates opening at 8.35am with children able to enter their classrooms between 8.35am and 8.55am. Registration will be taken at 8.55am so that the school day can begin with Collective Worship in the hall at 9.00am. Please make sure your child is in class by 8.55am and does not arrive late as it can impact on their school routine.

The school day will finish at 3.15pm. Please collect your children from their classrooms at this time.

School uniform

We are now at a point in which we are back to our full school uniform. In particular, school shoes should be a completely black shoe. We recognise that there has been a rise in trainer/school shoe hybrids for sale and if you chose to go down this route they should be completely black including the sole and be of smart appearance.

EYFS parents will hopefully have received communication regarding wearing tracksuit bottoms and trainers during their time in Class 1 due to the extended periods of freeflow activity they have in their learning environment as part of the Early Years curriculum.

Parent - School Partnership

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new parents into our school community in what must have been a very difficult time in deciding on a school without being able to make visits. We look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks and getting to know you and your families.

We would like to invite all parents to attend a meeting on Monday 20th September at 6.30pm to introduce the School Improvement Plan to parents. It is our hope that this might be able to be 'live' and give parents the opportunity to meet with Mr Brown, but will need to be lead by circumstances at the time and this may need to be a Zoom meeting. This will be confirmed well in advance of the meeting.

We are excited to begin a new academic year, especially with the greater freedoms the children can now enjoy in school, but of course continue to proceed in a way that will continue to ensure a happy, safe school community. If you have any questions regarding arrangements you can contact the school via email through Head@woodhamwalter.essex.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you next Thursday and of course please don't hesitate to contact us should you need to.

Kind regards

PJBrown

Mr Philip Brown
Executive Head, All Saints, Maldon
and Woodham Walter Primary Schools

SDodd

Mrs Sue Dodd
Head of School, Woodham Walter
C of E Primary School