

# Wilden V. A. Primary School

A Church of England School



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13th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well. I have been asked by the governors and Bedford Borough to continue as Interim Head teacher at Wilden for the Autumn term which I have agreed to – I am looking forward to being back with the Wilden family! I would like to thank Mrs Douglas and Mrs Byrne for leading the school during the Summer term. It has indeed been an unprecedented time and I know the Wilden team has done an amazing job.

Looking ahead to September

I am very pleased that we will be able to open fully in September to all our children. We are currently working through the details in the Government guidance and considering the final preparations. As you know from previous correspondence, the Government guidelines are constantly changing and we will update you on further changes made.

Some of the key points that are in the guidance are as follows:

The government has made it very clear that they require all children to attend school in September; they have also stated that attendance will be compulsory at that point. It is our intention to ensure that all classes are open and that all children will be able to attend as normal, therefore we will be welcoming all children back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. We will continue to prioritise the safety of all our community.

Some children will have missed a considerable period of schooling by the time they return, and it is vital that we deliver a curriculum that meets their educational needs as well as social and emotional needs. This will be a feature of our planning over the next few weeks.

Children will still be operating in "bubbles" and from September, these will expand to class bubbles. The children will be in their new year groups with their new teacher. We will still be encouraging children to maintain social distancing wherever possible. Within the classroom for example, it is highly likely that we will arrange the tables in rows, so that children will be sitting side-to-side rather than face to face. In order to maintain the emphasis on social distancing, the guidance suggests that schools continue to operate staggered starts and collection times for class bubbles, in order to reduce potential overcrowding at these times. Please see start and end times at the end of the letter.

Children will be allowed to bring a bag in September, however, it is important that the equipment is limited to the essentials. Children should wear their normal school uniform from September onwards. We are intending to provide hot school lunches from next term and before and after school club; these last two points will be confirmed on Friday 4<sup>th</sup>



September 2020 via email. We will still be required to limit the numbers of parents and visitors on site, and only those with essential pre-booked appointments will be allowed to enter the building.

We will be looking at how we can effectively implement "catch up" programmes to support pupils' learning from September onwards, where these are necessary, and our focus will be on ensuring that we have the right provision in place for each child. It is important to emphasise that schools will need to remain very vigilant regarding hygiene and health and safety, and we will continue to be rigorous in areas such as handwashing and our cleaning routines.

The guidance also provides clarity on the steps to be taken if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID 19 from September onwards, and we will of course, act in line with this guidance and Bedford Borough procedures.

Testing/tracing will be vital at that point, and schools will have to be prepared to switch quickly to remote learning in the event that a class or whole school were instructed to close as part of a "local lockdown" arrangement.

Please read the following information from the DfE specifically for parents/carers:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

If you have any questions or comments to make about the government's plans for schools to re-open in September, please email them through to the school office at [office@wildenschool.org.uk](mailto:office@wildenschool.org.uk)

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all children, staff, parents and governors for their support during this worrying time. I would like to say thank you to all the parents who have supported with home learning. We are looking forward to welcoming back our school community in September and having the Wilden family back.

Have a wonderful holiday and stay safe,

Mrs Maria Hutchinson BEd (Hons) MA NPQH  
Interim Head teacher

Class	Start time	Entrance and exit	Finish time
Chipmunks	8.45am	Main gate	3.10pm
Hedgehogs	8.45am	Main gate	3.10pm
Squirrels	8.45am	Small side gate	3.10pm
Otters	8.40am	Field gate	3.15pm
Muntjacs	8.35am	Field gate	3.20pm