



Warboys Primary Academy

A proud member of



Headteacher: Mrs Becky Ford

Warboys Primary Academy
Humberdale Way, Warboys
Huntingdon, PE28 2RX
Tel: 01487 822317
Email: office@wpa.education
Web: www.wpa.education

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you are all well and the children are looking forward to their return to school next week. No doubt they will be experiencing a range of emotions, but we are looking forward to welcoming them back and supporting them back into life at school.

As mentioned in last week's letter, school has been a hive of activity over the summer and this week has been no exception with the electricians in school until late last night getting the classrooms finished for KS1. Needless to say, they didn't manage to finish and were still on site this morning, but the teachers have finally been able to get back into their classrooms today to get set up. I am pleased to report that the footpath is complete at the back of school so this should improve things for families moving between Key Stage 1 and 2 and provide enough space for 2-way traffic. The widening of the footpath and the COVID 19 risk assessment now means that parents should not be coming through the corridor from the KS2 playground to KS1.

DFE Guidance

You may be aware that the DFE guidance was updated on Friday 28th August which has led to a review of our risk assessment and procedures ahead of the children returning next week. Two of the key changes were around the wearing of face coverings and extended schools' provision. I have amended our re-opening guidance, and this will be sent to you again with this letter. Just to save you reading the whole thing again, the changes are listed below:

- Section added about wearing face coverings
- Section added about bicycles and scooters
- Hawks entrance has changed (a map is attached to show all entrances and collection points)
- The requirement for lunch boxes to be hard plastic containers has been relaxed

The latest guidance has extensive revisions regarding how schools might be able to re-open before and after school clubs. We will be reviewing our risk assessment for The Hideout and hope that we may be able to open this sooner than expected. There will be strict measures in place to control which children can attend but we will write to you with further information as soon as this is available. Please do not expect The Hideout to re-open in the next few weeks. It will take us a little time to put the necessary measures in place to facilitate this. We will endeavour to get things in place as soon as possible and will keep you posted.

p.t.o

continued:-

EYFS Visits

We are looking forward to welcoming our new EYFS families for their visits next week. Please be aware that we will have social distancing measures in place and will be asking parents to wear face coverings and use the hand sanitiser on arrival. When you arrive for your visit please wait in the EYFS outdoor area and staff will come out to welcome you into the building for your appointment. You will be offered a seat in the classroom so that you can chat with the teacher and children will be supported by a teaching assistant to familiarise themselves with the classroom. Please be aware that staff may wear face coverings including visors for meetings with parents as per our risk assessment.

PE days

As you know children will need to come to school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE lessons. PE lessons will start from Tuesday 8th September and the days are as follows:

- Pink bubble (Hawks, Owls) - Wednesdays and Fridays
- Orange bubble (Tigers, Lions, Pumas) – Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Green bubble (Whales, Seahorses, Starfish) – Mondays and Fridays

Personal Belongings

Please ensure you have read our guidance carefully about personal belongings and items in school. It is important that children do not come to school with items that are not permitted on Monday to avoid any upset or disappointment. Children will not be permitted to bring any items into school that are not listed or agreed with the teacher.

Separation Anxiety

As part of our staff training over the last 2 days we have been discussing the range of emotions children may feel when they return to school and how best to support them. One of the things we discussed is the separation anxiety that some children may feel on returning to school. Staff will not be able to make physical contact with children so will not hold hands with children or hug them as they may have done in the past. We have talked about the different ways we can support children where this may be an issue and I thought I would share them with you as they may be helpful to you as parents:

- Encourage parents to say goodbye in a positive way and remind children “I’ll see you soon”
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Don’t get cross or frustrated
- Have activities set up in the classroom (e.g. colouring) to distract children and give them something else to focus on
- Practise breathing techniques and mindfulness with all children
- Support parents too: phone home or send a message at break or lunchtime to reassure parents that their child has settled

One idea we discussed was a ‘hug button’. Children and parents draw hearts on the palms of their hands and if they need reassurance during the day they can look at the heart as a reminder that they are ‘together in their hearts when apart’ or push the hug button to send their loved ones a hug. This might be something that some of our children might benefit from.



p.t.o

continued:-

New School Uniform

All new uniform that has been delivered to school has been organised into class bubbles for teachers to distribute. If you are awaiting new school uniform, children will be given this to bring home on their first day back at school.

As promised, I will add some photographs of our new learning areas and the work that has taken place to our Facebook page later today. We are really excited about sharing the new Whales and Starfish classrooms and KS1 learning areas. They are lovely! The team are well prepared for the children's return and have worked incredibly hard over the last week; school is looking lovely. We realise that the start of this school year is like no other, however we are confident that our school values will continue to shine through in all that we do and that children will make a happy and successful transition. Have a wonderful weekend, we can't wait to see you next week.

Yours sincerely

Becky Ford
Headteacher