

# What is Going On at Warstones!

3.9.2020

Thank you everyone for your support and help as we aim to have everyone back in school safely. It is a major undertaking to get everyone in within their bubbles and avoid parents having to wait around but hopefully we will all get used to it. We will monitor it carefully and tweak where necessary to make it as smooth as possible. ***It is vital though, that children arrive and are picked up on time so as not to affect another year bubble. We really do need your support with this please.***

Some things became apparent from our first day. **Please do not arrive earlier than your child's time and wait.** We had so many arrive early yesterday which caused a crowd outside both gates. There should be no need for anyone to be waiting around if you arrive at the right time. Please can only one adult walk around to drop off/pick up EY or KS1 children. If your child is in KS2 they need to walk in by themselves, please do not wait around at the gate to watch them walk in—please just drop them off and leave. We need to avoid groups of parents standing at the gate. **Y2, Y3 and Y4 parents should not be waiting at the gates before 8.45am.** It blocks the entrance for the first wave of children entering and causes the crowds and makes it pointless us trying to keep year groups in bubbles when in school. If you have children in another year group going in later, please wait **away** from the gate. It may help to arrive towards the end of the 10 minute slot so you do not have to wait long until the next year group goes in. If you are early because of bus timetables please consider waiting on the grass area by the shops away from the school entrance. If you do find yourself waiting at the gate, please stay on the school side of the pavement to allow others to pass safely and keep socially distanced from other parents. A lot of distress was caused on Wednesday as some family groups did not stay distanced from others. Parents also turned up too early at the end of the day especially in EY and KS1 children so were standing in the narrow footpath blocking the exit for others and stopping children being released on time. If everyone sticks to the timeslots given there should be no need for any queues building up.

We appreciate the frustrations of parents who have children in Y1 and Y2 as in theory, you need to walk around school twice, as we can not have people waiting on that narrow pathway. Alternatively, it may help to arrive towards the end of the Y1 10 minute slot so you can go round once with both together. Also those who are picking up children from KS1 and then waiting to pick up EY children later. We are looking into alternative solutions for those who this affects and we will contact you as soon as we can. We will also release Y3 and Y6 children out of the hall doors from today rather than bring them round from the FaF door as planned. We will mark the playground when it is dry to show where it is best to wait. Please bear with us for now.

Siblings of Early Year children in Y1-6, **can arrive at the same time as the EY start time.** The EY children are coming in last to allow for any difficulties starting and we do not want to add to the stress of starting school by having to wait around for a long time because of the earlier start of siblings. So the older siblings can arrive at the later time and enter through the KS2 gate and walk into the KS2 hall to be registered there. They will not be seen as late.

If you *are* late and have missed your child's year group time, any parents with KS1 children will be asked to walk round to the KS2 hall and drop children there. Any KS2 children who are late will also be directed to the hall. Mrs Gleeson will be contacting parents of children who are late to see if there are any issues that need support. If this is after the last group are in, you will need to ring the school office and they will arrange for someone to open the appropriate entrance door. Children can not enter through the office.

Dinner orders can not be taken after 9.30. If your child is later than this for any reason without our prior knowledge, we cannot provide a lunch.

**ALL CHILDREN** will need to have their own **NAMED water bottle** as we will not have cups available for drinking in the classroom, for school dinners or packed lunches.

We have a limited supply of bottles available in school to purchase for £1.

## PE kits

To help maintain social distancing in the classroom we would like all children to come to school in their PE clothes on the days of the week they have PE/Games so children are not all trying to change clothes in the classroom.

On days where they need their indoor kit and pumps, children should wear their shorts and T shirts under a tracksuit which they can take off for PE. They can bring their indoor pumps in a bag so as not to be wearing them outside. Games lessons alternate at half term between Year groups.

### Autumn 1 (starting wk.bg. 7th September)

| Class      | Indoor PE   | Games                 | Class      | Indoor PE          | Games                  |
|------------|---|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Reception  | Thursday (indoor or outdoor dependant on weather) |                       | 3EM<br>3RF | Friday<br>Thursday | Wednesday<br>Wednesday |
| 1JL<br>1EW | Monday<br>Tuesday                                 | Friday<br>Friday      | Year 4     | Thursday           | <i>Next half term</i>  |
| 2AS<br>2CW | Wednesday<br>Thursday                             | <i>Next half term</i> | Year 5     | Tuesday            | Friday                 |
|            |   |                       | Year 6     | Monday             | <i>Next half term</i>  |

**Lunchtimes**—children who are bringing their own lunch from home can bring it in a lunchbox rather than a plastic bag now. Do remember you can order a 'Grab bag' packed lunch as an alternative to a school dinner from our caterers at a price of £2.50 (free for Recep/KS1). Please ensure they are cleaned/washed every day to avoid any chance of contamination. Today, we also had children take a provided lunch without ordering resulting in us being a few lunches short. While we work at getting lunch orders online, please help us by reminding children to ask for a lunch when we do the lunch register in the morning. Thank you.

*There will be building works in Early Years during the first couple of weeks of this term to remove a wall in TW/Nurseys. It could not take place during the holidays as we had to wait for a structural survey. It will create a much better learning environment for our children so we will grit our teeth and cope with the inconvenience!*

## Well being

Staff have worked really hard to make school ready for all children to be back as soon as possible. We even have some of our Early Years children starting today and all should be in by the end of next week. We really want to get our school community back together and be a support to our families as well.

Our prime consideration will be the mental and physical well being of our children and by extension all of our families. Staff undertook well being training on the INSET day and we have an action plan in place to ensure we have the interests of every child at the heart of what we do. We will be working with children in class, in groups and individually, to try and identify any children struggling or needing support in any way. We also want to ask for your help with this. We will be sending out a parent survey for you to be able to let us know of any concerns you have, to let us know if children have had to deal with family being ill or bereavements, or if there is any support you feel we could signpost you to or help with. Please look out for this coming soon also some information on the website. Any immediate concerns, do contact Mrs Brown or Mrs Gleeson.

Your support as children come to terms with being back at school after such a long break is essential to make this as smooth and trouble free as possible. Please remind children to try and maintain social distancing while at school, to wash hands regularly and correctly, to not share their belongings, to cough/sneeze into tissues and to try and be patient when we have to line up at times moving around school. Do talk through any worries with them but help them find the positive and encourage patience and tolerance of each other and our new systems in school.

***Together we can help each other!***

*We will be sending out regular newsletters to keep you updated with any new guidance, any changes we are making and answer any concerns. Any queries, please phone school (01902 558787) or e mail :*

[EY@warstonesprimary.co.uk](mailto:EY@warstonesprimary.co.uk) [KS1@warstonesprimary.co.uk](mailto:KS1@warstonesprimary.co.uk) [KS2@warstonesprimary.co.uk](mailto:KS2@warstonesprimary.co.uk)

[DRB@warstonesprimary.co.uk](mailto:DRB@warstonesprimary.co.uk) General enquiries: [warstonesprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:warstonesprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk)