



Gladstone Road Primary School

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"Learning to Succeed"

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21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 – School Update for Parents – Letter 2

Thank you so much for your patience and your constructive and supportive feedback – it is very much appreciated and helpful.

Following Gavin Williamson's Government Briefing on Saturday, the Local Authority and Trade Unions have issued some risk assessment guidance this week. As you know we are currently providing 'child care' provision for children whose parents are both in work (there is no adult in the household who can share the child care responsibilities) or children who are known to be vulnerable. As more companies are opening up this week and more parents are returning to work, our child number has increased from 50 to approximately 80. **Due to this comparatively large number of children, we are not yet in a position to open the school to EYFS, Y1 and Y6 from the 1st June as the Government has suggested.**

Due to our increased numbers of children and in preparation for the possibility of opening the school up to more children, Mrs Halliday (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Sarney (Business Manager) and a team of staff volunteers are implementing all of the advised 'Social Distancing' and 'Hygiene' measures. These measures are prioritising the safety of everyone and unfortunately will have a negative impact on the provision we have been offering. As you may have seen on social media, we have had a relatively small number of children in school, so have been able to deliver creative, themed activities, whilst still as best as we could, keeping the children and adults 2 metres apart. Due to the increased number of children we now have and the guidance issued this week, this will no longer be possible.

I have included with this letter an extract from the schools Risk Assessment that now needs to be adopted after the 1st June for schools that are opening more widely. These measures are designed to keep everyone safe and are very thorough. Even though at this stage we are not opening school, we have adopted them in the following ways:

- The 80 children currently attending school are going to be allocated a 'Bubble'. **Parents will be contacted with all of the information.** We have 8 'Bubbles' and there will be 10 children and one available adult in each one.
- A 'Bubble':
 - is a designated classroom, which has been emptied so that the tables and the 'adult space' are all 2 metres apart.
 - has a cleaning kit, hand sanitizers and adult PPE.
 - has a designated door for adults to drop off and collect – adults will be requested to stay 2 metres apart.
 - has allocated time for accessing the playground and outdoors during the day.
 - has allocated toilets.
 - has a box of stationary for each child.
- The 'Bubbles' are spaced out across school as the adults and children within each one cannot mix with other 'Bubbles'.
- A one-way system has been introduced on the corridors to maintain Social Distancing.
- A full-time cleaner has been employed to maintain the Hygiene regulations for the 'Bubbles', toilets and wider school.
- Hand sanitizer and other hygiene requirements will be provided at external doors, toilets etc.



- We will teach the children about the hygiene measures and the importance of them. We will need to constantly remind them as we do already. We would also ask parents/carers to do this at home.
- The part that really has hit us hard emotionally but is to ensure the safety of everyone is that the children will be required to sit at their 'Bubble' desks for parts of the day. We will of course take the children outside as much as we can within the guidance, but being seated so much will be a challenge, particularly for the younger children.

We are hoping that the 'Bubbles' will be introduced to our current 'child care' provision after half-term. Once we have had a week or two to test these changes and resolve any issues, we will then be in a position to consider the wider opening of school as per the Government's guidance. Of course, it is important to remember that even then, parents/carers are still being advised that they do not have to send their children to school.

I hope this letter reassures you that we are taking this very seriously in the interests of supporting the families that need us most, keeping everyone safe and maintaining our partnership with you. Obviously, I hope you will understand that I cannot guarantee that these measures will be 100% effective but we are hardworking, committed and we will try our very best.

There will be no changes to the Home Learning arrangements that are currently in place, whilst we implement these systems. Please do keep sending in your photographs for publishing on our Website/Facebook/Twitter pages – they are brilliant!

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I will write to you soon with an update of how we are getting on. Please do continue to check our school Website/Facebook/Twitter pages regularly for updates. Thanks again for your support. Keep doing what you are doing and remember that we are here to support you.

Best wishes



Mr Garry Johnson
Head Teacher

Extracts from the school's risk assessment for your information - overleaf

Extracts from the school's risk assessment for your information

Class sizes - 'Bubbles'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups will be limited to 10 children per classroom Each child will be allocated a table and chair, which have been placed approx. 2 metres apart Children and staff will be based in the same classroom at all times – a member of staff will be allocated to each group of children. This may not be the same member of staff each day, and could be a teaching assistant or a teacher.
Entering / leaving school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only one parent should bring a child to school There will be staggered start and finish times There will be a one-way system ; children are to arrive through one gate and parents leave through the opposite gate There will be a queuing system for children entering school: they will need to wait on the 2m markers until they can enter the building Parents must not gather at the gates
Social Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social distancing should be maintained at all times and children/staff should not interact in a manner where they will have close contact with each other. Staff will be advised to stand behind pupils when looking at their work (rather than next to or opposite). Everyone is advised to walk with their hands clasped to avoid contact. Staff and pupils must not touch their faces, eyes, nose etc Where possible, only one child at a time will use the toilet facilities To assist in maintaining 2m distance, corridors will be divided and marked where possible
Playtimes/lunchtime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground time will be timetabled so only one group is in an area at a time Lunchtimes will be timetabled Communal areas (e.g. halls) will not be used Children will eat lunch in their classroom. The kitchen will only be able to provide packed lunches at this time
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items that are hard to clean should not be used. This will include some toys, climbing walls etc Children should not bring personal items from home Children will be allocated a 'basket' with their own pencils etc to use. They should not share these with others Staff have been advised not to mark books etc
COVID symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone displaying symptoms (new, continuous cough, high temperature etc) should not come into school. If a child starts to display symptoms whilst at school, they will be moved to a room where they are isolated behind a closed door. Staff may wear PPE if the pupil needs close supervision and 2m distance cannot be maintained. If they have symptoms, your child should remain at home and self-isolate for 14 days. Members of the household should isolate for 14 days (unless test results come back negative). If someone in the group is sent home due to displaying symptoms, then the whole group (children and staff) will also be required to self-isolate for 14 days or until they have had a negative test result. If anyone in the household is displaying symptoms, the child should not be sent into school.
Visitors to site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-essential visits will be postponed. All visitors, including parents, must make pre-arranged appointments or they will not be allowed on site Any meetings will be conducted with appropriate social distancing
Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have a cleaner onsite at all times. They will ensure all key areas are regularly cleaned throughout the day.