



Gladstone Road Primary School

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"Learning to Succeed"

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9th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 – School Update for Parents – Letter 6

Thank you so much to the parents that completed our Survey Monkey regarding child place requests, we have received 146 responses. This is incredibly useful, as it helps us to plan for the potential opening of school to EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 children as per the Government's Guidance.

We are apprehensive, as we continue to receive multiple daily requests for Key Worker child care, which is due to the amount of businesses that are re-opening each week. With this in mind, we need to plan carefully how we move forward, whilst ensuring that the safety of everyone is at the forefront of our decision making.

We have approximately 150 Key Worker's children accessing our childcare provision now. This is a very high number, which is increasing and could impact on our ability to open more widely. We are dependent on parents only requesting a Child Care place if it is absolutely necessary.

Through the Survey Monkey, we have had requests for 120 school places in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6. We are housing 10 children and one adult in each Bubble, to try and maintain the 2 metre social distancing measures. Unfortunately, we do not have enough adults available to safely supervise the 27 Bubbles that would be required to accommodate all of these children. We also feel that the one-way system and staggered breaks/lunchtimes would be unmanageable with these high numbers.

Since lockdown began, we have gradually built up our school offer in-line with the Government Guidance with the staff we have available. We remain concerned about effectively maintaining the safety and hygiene measures needed, but also want to continue to support our Key Worker families and increase our offer for wider school opening. You of course share our concerns and your support has been really appreciated throughout this challenging time.

The important points to be aware of if your child is in school:

- Staggered drop off/collection times apply. One-way systems and maintaining social distancing rules are enforced.
- If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, a lunch will be provided. **Please note that the Free School Meal voucher that you have been receiving will then be cancelled, as your child is having a lunch in school.**
- The staff will alternate each day, as they are on a rota and so the work in school will be the same as the Home Learning work that is being provided.
- There is an agreement that as staff are being drafted into school to supervise the 'Bubbles', your child is **expected to attend every day**. Failure to attend will result in the place for your child being removed, so that it can be allocated to another child.
- We have had some instances of children demonstrating challenging behaviour and refusing to follow the safety and hygiene rules. To keep everyone safe, in these instances, the children involved have been sent home and the place has been removed.
- If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and children who are attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and must get tested.



Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their 'Bubble' will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. The household members do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

This week, we are going to begin implementing more Bubbles and liaising with staff, with a view to opening the school to the **Year 1 children whose parents have requested a place**. These Year 1 places will be available from Monday 15th June and will require three additional Bubbles in school. We will continue to monitor the safety of this arrangement, especially as the requests for Key Worker child care continue to come in. If we can safely manage it, we will aim to open the school to the EYFS children, whose parents have requested a place starting 22nd June, but this is not guaranteed. We will then look at the possibility of opening to year 6 children, whose parents have requested a place, but again this is not guaranteed.

Please be mindful that we are taking this forward planning slowly, as we need to be certain that it is safe and feasible. **We will contact the Year 1 parents this week with further information.**

Thanks again for supporting us, we'll continue to do our best for you.

Best wishes



Mr Garry Johnson
Head Teacher