



"Learning to Succeed"

Gladstone Road Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 – School Update for Parents – Letter 7

I hope this letter finds you well on this rainy Friday. Thank you so much for your continued support and for the messages of constructive feedback. It is all very much appreciated.

Due to the relatively low number of requests for additional Year 1 places in the Survey Monkey, we have spent the week setting up the new Year 1 Bubbles and feel confident that they will be safe and successful next week when they start. We have worked out that we can safely implement the EYFS Bubbles the week after, in response to the Survey Monkey, because we are going to run Early Years as a completely separate unit from the rest of the school Bubbles.

The task now is to focus on year 6. Understandably, the highest number of requests through the Survey Monkey were for Year 6 places. To respond to this safely, we are giving this a lot of thought. Year 6 are top of the agenda in each of our strategy meetings and we are exploring lots of different options. I will keep you updated on this next week. You may be aware that the Year 6 team are busy behind the scenes liaising with the High Schools to work out transition arrangements and at Gladstone Road, we are exploring different ways that we might be able to invite Year 6 in for celebrations before they leave us when we break up for the summer holidays. I will keep you updated as our plans come together. We are of course dependant on Government advice as and when it is issued, which also includes their plans for Primary Schools in September.

We continue to receive multiple daily requests for Key Worker child care, which is an unknown factor that we have to consider. I continue to urge parents to only request a place if there is nobody at home to look after your child as our numbers are at 150 places, which requires a lot of staff to supervise them. I also need to be clear that the school is not like school in its current form. The children are grouped into Bubbles of 10 children, with a rota of the available adults and they are being provided with the Home-Learning offer. Everybody must stay 2 metres apart at all times and the children spend most of the day at their desks. There are of course strict hygiene and safety measures in place. We are making it as fun and nurturing as we can, but it is all far from ideal. Fingers crossed now that the 5 indicators are being met and the lockdown restrictions are being gradually lifted, that we can resume to some form of normality soon.

Sadly, following the latest statements from the Government, it is looking highly likely that we are not going to be able to open our doors and invite everyone back this academic year. All I can say is we have put EVERYTHING in place for when we can reopen to catch up for this lost time, lost learning and lost laughter. We will all pull together to make this happen.

Thanks again for supporting us, we will continue to do our best for you. I am so incredibly proud of my staff team who have pulled together to transform our school, taking on ever changing guidance with gusto and supporting each other along the way. But this works both ways. I am in awe of you as parents/carers and our children. You have adapted to this situation and continue to press on under all of this pressure. You are AMAZING! Have a good weekend. I will be back in touch next week with the next step in our plan.

Best wishes

Mr Garry Johnson
Head Teacher

