



Gladstone Road Primary School

Wooler Street, Scarborough

North Yorkshire, YO12 7DD

Head teacher: Mr. G. Johnson

"Learning to Succeed"

Tel: 01723 372566 Fax: 01723 501126

Email: admin@gladstone.n-yorks.sch.uk

7th July 2020

Hello Parents and Carers!

It's a long, busy letter this one, so I hope you are sitting comfortably...



School is open in September

I am very excited to be writing this letter to explain the plan for fully re-opening school to all children, on Tuesday 8th September, as per the latest Government guidance.

Our systems are already in place for the 350+ children and staff that we currently have in our Bubbles. We feel confident that our safety measures work, to minimise the risk of spreading the virus to the best of our ability. Due to the size of our school, we are going to be operating in a similar way to a Secondary School. To enable us to operate safely, providing a full curriculum, we are going to group the children into Year Group Bubbles. The children will be in their new class, with their class teachers / support staff, but they will also work and socialise in their whole Year Group of four classes as normal.

On our website, each teacher will be posting a short video clip, which will show you where to drop your child each morning and where they can be collected at the end of the day. You will be sent a letter very soon with all of the information that you need.

As you will appreciate there are nearly 800 children at Gladstone Road Primary School, so the procedures for drop off and pick up are going to be a logistical challenge for all of us! This is the really important bit as we are relying heavily on your support. **Please ensure that you are on time and in the right place at the start and end of the school day.** We appreciate that you may have children who need dropping off/collecting from different points of the school, but your swiftest response will be very much appreciated – we are setting you this challenge!

Here are a few important points for you to familiarise yourself with in preparation for returning to school:

- Only 1 adult should drop off/pick, up to reduce the number of people around school. With one adult, all of the children and staff, there will be up to 1700 people to organise! Parents will not be admitted onto the school grounds at the start of the day to keep a smooth flow, minimise your waiting time and to disperse crowds. Staff will meet and greet your child at the designated year group gate. We have also implemented designated collection zones at the end of the school day. This information will be sent to you in a letter in the next few days – please look out for it as you will need to know the plan for your child on the first day back.
- If you need help or if your child is understandably reluctant to come into school after such a long absence, please seek help from a member of available staff who is not processing children through the gates. We will make sure there are plenty of us around at the start and end of the day to support you in any way and to answer your questions.



- Children should be in full school uniform. On days when your child has PE, they are to come to school in their PE kit and trainers. No change of clothes is required. This is to help with the logistics as changing rooms will not be needed. It will also minimise the items that children are bringing into school as per the Government advice.
- Cloakrooms are out of action to avoid crowds of children congregating and to support our new cleaning regimes. As the children will be storing their belongings at their desks, **please do not send your child in with a bulky rucksack**. All they will need is a water bottle, lunch and their reading book. No pencil cases please as all equipment is provided and cleaned in school.
- Unfortunately, we are not going to be able to offer a hot school lunch straight away, until we have worked out how we can do this safely. Mrs Sarney sent a letter yesterday regarding the packed lunch option we are able to offer. We have an exciting new menu coming, with a wide variety of options, including vegetarian meals and a self-service salad bar. As soon as we can provide this, we will.
- Public Health England has advised schools to ensure that children do not wear face coverings in school. This advice is under review. Please do not send your child into school with a facemask. Staff will wear facemasks and protective equipment, if they need to come into close contact with a child e.g. when administering First Aid.
- If your child develops symptoms, whilst at school, they will be sent home immediately and you will be supported to have them tested for Coronavirus and given instructions of how the family should isolate to reduce the risk of spreading the infection.
- If your child or a household member develops symptoms at home, please do not send your child to school. Simply contact us and we will support you with what to do next.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you back. I know we can rely on your continued support to enable us to do this safely by following the points detailed above. Your support is a constant reassurance for us. On our website, we will shortly be adding photos and information about each staff member, so that you can get to know us all a little better. We will also be adding details of our exciting new curriculum and facilities, which we have put in place whilst being in lockdown. Please do not worry about the future. In the first few weeks our focus will be:

- Settling everybody back into a school routine.
- Building up the children's confidence, resilience and re-establishing friendships.
- Gauging where the children are in terms of their learning, then building on top of the knowledge and skills that they have retained.
- Supporting children to re-establish their positive attitudes to learning and independence.
- Back-filling any gaps in knowledge to ensure they swiftly make progress in their learning.



We are so conscious that the home learning you have had to manage this term may have put a lot of strain on you and your child. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have devices and available internet connections. Not everyone has the confidence to support their child with Maths or reading and may have had a poor experience themselves at school. Whatever your circumstances, you have clearly managed extremely well. We know that what is missed the most by the children is being able to socialise and interact with each other, like they do in the classroom.

We are ready for you 😊

On the 8th September, we will hit the ground running. When it is possible to do so, we are planning another huge project to support you to come on our journey with us. We firmly believe that **parent/carer involvement = child success**. We are going to be offering fun and exciting sessions for parents/carers to come into school to work alongside us. These sessions could get messy but will definitely be filled with laughter! We will ensure that you feel able to support your child at home in the best possible way.

Anything you can do at home will be a bonus. From simply listening to your child read, to helping them with their Maths – whatever it is that you want to be able to feel confident in doing. Whatever works for you, will be supported by us. We will provide simple strategies. For example, instead of asking your child what they did today and they may respond with a shrug 😏. You could ask questions like, “what made you smile today?” or “who did you play with at lunchtime?”. These questions are just as valid and important. Tips and tricks will be shared and listening to your concerns, experiences and views of our school will also be invaluable to us. As parents/carers of our children, you have such a huge influence on your child’s learning and academic achievement and I guarantee it’ll be more than you realise. At our future sessions, we are going to tap into this and show you how the little things can make all of the difference, as we all work together to do the very best for your child. Of course, there will be plenty of time for us just to share a packet of biscuits over a cuppa and have a good old natter!

Until we can start the sessions, due to the restrictions of social distancing etc, we would like to make a start on our session planning. You know I love a Survey Monkey! **Please could you take a few minutes to complete the anonymous survey on our website.** We want to really understand what it is that you want for your children moving forward after this incredible year? What are your concerns? Are there any barriers to us working more closely together? Do you think we understand your point of view? How could we improve our ‘customer service’? Are we getting it right? All of these things really matter to us.

Please do complete the survey. 😊

Well that is all from me for now. Congratulations on getting through this letter in one piece. Again, I hope all is well in your world and if we can do anything to help, you know where we are.

Have a brilliant summer break.

Best wishes



Mr Garry Johnson
Head Teacher