



Goldenhill Primary Academy



Head teacher: Mr. S Martin BA (Hons).NPQH

"Everyone shines at Goldenhill"

Broadfield Road, Goldenhill, Stoke on Trent.
ST6 4QE.

Tel: 01782 235790 Fax: 01782 235791

Monday 7th September 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the start of a new academic year! I hope that you all managed to have a lovely, if somewhat different summer.

We have lots of new children and families joining our academy this year and we extend a very warm welcome to you all. We look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year. If there is anything we can help you with, please let us know.

We have already successfully welcomed many of our children back as part of our phased return and look forward to the rest of our academy family being back by Wednesday 9th September. I have to say that none of the children who've come back have been upset, they've all adapted to the changes brilliantly, they've all got straight back to it and have loved getting back to learning.

On behalf of all the staff here at the academy, above all else, as well as staying safe in these challenging times, I hope your child has a fantastic start to their new class and thoroughly enjoys the topics and opportunities awaiting them!

As we enter, what will be our 'new norm' for the foreseeable future, there are some strict guidelines specified by the Government and the Trust that will be adhered to at Goldenhill. These measures were sent out to parents at the end of the summer term and are available on the academy website. I have included them below as a reminder.

Some of these measures are:

- Children will be taught in Year Group 'bubbles' of 30 pupils. Children will not be able to cross to other bubbles. As a result, sadly, we will not be able to operate our Nurture Provision during the Autumn Term.
- Only essential visitors will be allowed in to school and communication with parents will need to be via the telephone or by e-mail.
- Children will not be allowed to share stationery. Any resources that need to be shared will be cleaned after use.
- Shared areas and surfaces will be cleaned frequently
- Only 1 parent/carer can escort a child to school.
- Parents must adhere to the strict social distancing and follow the one-way 'drop off' and collection guidance for their child's year group.
- Parents must ensure that they adhere to the 'drop off' and collection times for their child's year group.
- Parents/carers cannot gather at school gates and doors.
- All children are supervised during handwashing/sanitising at the start of each day, before and after break times and lunchtimes and are reminded to wash their hands when they use the toilet.
- Lunchtimes and breaks will be staggered.



- Assemblies will take place in the classrooms not the Main Hall
- Movement around the school will be limited.
- Children will sit in rows facing the front of the classroom (years 1-6)
- Contact with the teacher or teaching assistant will be kept to a minimum.
- Classroom doors will be open to reduce the times that people touch them.
- Additional cleaning will take place throughout the day and all surfaces are wiped down regularly throughout the day with antibacterial spray.
- To keep everyone safe we have made the decision that there will NOT be any trips until further notice. Similarly, we are not allowing parents or volunteer helpers into the main school building and ask for your patience and understanding.
- We are asking that parents / carers limit physical contact with school staff and use the telephone or e-mail wherever possible.
- Extra-curricular clubs will be starting after October half term; however, this will be kept under constant review.
- Please note that some staff may not be able to speak directly in person to parents / carers as part of their own risk assessment. Please be understanding and do not take offence if this happens, they will be happy to contact you by telephone. Thank you.

Additional information about what children will need to bring to school:

- Their own water bottle must be taken home and cleaned each day.
- Parents/carers and children will be told when their PE day(s) are. On those days children are to come into school wearing their P.E. kit and remain in their kit for the day. N.B. Children will **NOT** be allowed to borrow spare P.E. kit so it is important that ALL children come to school in their kit.
- Children who have sandwiches will need to bring their lunch either in a carrier bag or their lunch box. No large bags will be allowed.
- Free fruit will continue to be provided for children from Nursery to Year 2 as part of the Government's scheme.
- The children will be expected to wear their normal school uniform.
- Sadly, children cannot bring any toys or home learning projects into school.
- Your child will not be allowed to bring a pencil case into school. Your child will be given their own individual set of equipment by us.
- Home / School Diaries will not be transferred between home and school, but we will be sending a diary to each of you to record your child's home reading. N.B. If you have any messages for the teacher please contact the Main Office via telephone or e-mail.
- N.B. In line with Government guidelines children are not expected to wear face masks in school. If children arrive wearing a face mask they will need to remove it and place it in a carrier bag. They will NOT be allowed to wear it in class.

Lunchtime provision:

The following options are available for children regarding lunch:

- Children can bring in a packed lunch from home.
- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a Free School Meal under the government's Universal Free School Meal scheme.
- Parents can purchase a lunch for their child via Parent Pay.
- If your child is eligible for Free School Meals they can have a free school lunch.
- Please note all meals will be served and eaten in your child's classroom as part of our safety measures.



Messages to school staff:

Staff will also be adhering to the social distancing measures where possible and as a result, we want to minimise parent to staff contact. If you have a message for a member of staff, please contact the main office or email the academy at: office@goldenhillprimary.org.uk

Where can I find more information?

Please check the information on the Societas Trust website where you will find the Trust's Recovery and Reset Policy, weekly statements, messages from our C.E.O., Mr. Lovatt and risk assessments for each academy. This information and our policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

www.societastrust.org.uk

Please note, even with the large degree of planning that has already happened, we will still need to review all of the new systems we have put into place and may have to make changes to them. If this is the case we will let parents know.

Government update related to Coronavirus testing:

Please find below the information from Public Health England that we have been asked to share:

The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to ensure that we are doing all we can to minimise the potential risks of spread. A key part of this is the appropriate use of testing to help identify people who are positive and subsequently their contacts. We have made testing available throughout the country and anyone with symptoms can book a test online or over the telephone through 119 to get the certainty they need to protect themselves and those around them.

Crucial to our overall support for schools and colleges is ensuring that everyone with coronavirus symptoms has access to a test as soon as they develop those symptoms. It is vital that we learn from the recent Scottish experience, where the return of schools saw a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms. We want to avoid a similar surge in test demand as England's schools and colleges return to ensure that we continue to prioritise our testing capacity for those with symptoms and to avoid children, students and their families self-isolating unnecessarily.

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:
- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or
- they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three



main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

Meet the Teacher- virtual sessions:

On Thursday 10th September, we will be holding short sessions via Zoom so that you are able to meet your child's new teacher. It will also give you a chance to find out more about what is happening in your child's class including information about PE, homework, topics, etc. Please try to join if you can make it.

All meetings will be held via Zoom at 4:00pm & 5:00pm. Class teachers will be sending invite out over the next couple of days.

Data collection/Allergy/Asthma and Photographs:

We will be sending home letters asking for updated contact and medical information and also permission to take photographs of children taking part in academy activities- it would be very much appreciated if these could be signed and returned to school ASAP.

Before and After School Care Club:

As previously communicated we hope to restart our Before and After School Care Club the week commencing 14th September. A letter will be sent out describing the changes to the provision and how to book a place.

Goodbye, Good luck and Welcome:

At the end of the summer term, we said goodbye to Mrs. Jane McKeever, who has retired after being an Early Year Practitioner in our nursery for 8 years. I am sure you would like to share with me in thanking her for all her hard work and commitment to everyone at Goldenhill and wish her the very best of luck in the future.

On Friday 4th September, we said goodbye to Mrs. Gill Hardie, who has retired as our Academy Business Manager after working at Goldenhill for 12 years. I am sure you would like to share with me in thanking her for all her hard work and commitment to everyone at Goldenhill and wish her the very best of luck in the future. From Monday 7th September, we welcome Mrs. Lisa Barnett as our new Academy Business Manager.

On Friday 2nd October, we say goodbye to Mrs. Jan Butcher, who is retiring after being our Care Club leader here at Goldenhill for 12 years. I am sure you would like to share with me in thanking her for all her hard work and commitment to everyone at Goldenhill and wish her the very best of luck in the future.

Please take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. S Martin

Head Teacher

