



Goldenhill Primary Academy



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

"Everyone shines at Goldenhill"

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Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

First of all I want to thank you for all the hard work you have been doing with your children; for being so supportive of our school and the staff who are trying their very best to support you.

I'm sure you're aware the Prime Minister made a speech on Sunday night indicating that some children might be able to return to school from June 1st if it is safe to do so. We received more Government guidance on Monday night and have now been able to start reading, understanding and begin planning for the Government's strategy.

I apologise that this is a long letter but it is really important that we share the detail so that you understand the next steps we are taking.

The following link is to the guidance for parents that the government issued.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

The key messages from Government are;

1. Schools continue to offer places to vulnerable children, including those with EHCPs, and children of Covid-19 critical Key workers
2. Schools will look at ways to open to more children from June 1st if it is considered safe to do so
3. Parents will NOT be fined for not sending their child/ren to school
4. Shielding children should NOT attend school
5. If a child lives with someone who is shielding then they should NOT be in school
6. Groups of children must NOT mix together or come into contact, and children within a group should remain 2 metres apart, if they can. THIS WILL BE VERY HARD TO ENFORCE IN SCHOOL PARTICULARLY FOR NURSERY, RECEPTION AND YEAR 1
7. If there is a shortage of teachers, a teaching assistant can lead a group
8. Aim is for all children to have some time in school before the Summer holidays



As directed by the Government our school will prioritise the following groups of pupils:

Nursery and Reception children first followed by Year 1 and then Year 6 only. Regardless of having children in these year groups that are invited to school, any siblings in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 should remain at home. There will not be a provision for them at school unless they are critical key worker children who have already registered with us, or vulnerable children. This again will be restricted in numbers that we can safely accommodate.

We are aware this is an extremely anxious time for all parents and it may not be possible to accommodate all children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on a full-time basis. This will be dependent on what numbers of children show a desire to attend school from week beginning June 1st. Although we will try to ensure that your child is with their usual teacher, this will not always be possible. Although the government, if considered safe, may encourage parents of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to send their child to school from June 1st, this decision is purely yours to make and you will not be penalised for non-attendance.

Over the next two weeks, we need to plan in case we can open to more children on June 1st and will be doing the following:

1. Sending out a survey to find out how many parents may want to take up places for eligible children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This will be sent by the end of the week and we will require responses early next week.

(NB: Please complete the survey separately for each of your children regardless of their year group. However, unless you are a key worker, only your children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be considered for a place from 1 June)

3. Analyse the responses to identify key groups of children. Prioritising Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and then Year 6

4. Review staffing to ensure enough staff are well and available to work

5. Ensure adequate and appropriate cleaning resources are available

6. Update our risk assessments.

7. Move all desks and seats to separate children appropriately (2m apart where possible)

8. Plan our timetable so that we can offer as much outdoor learning as possible

9. Plan how staff can continue to support 'home learning' for children

10. Plan our groups of children and staff, to minimise changes in personnel

11. Re plan our school environments so that groups MUST stay in 1 room during the day and term

12. Plan staggered break & lunchtimes so the groups are not mixing together/moving around the school at the same time

13. Plan how and where lunches will be provided and eaten

14. Plan new staggered drop-off and collection times – only one parent can bring their child/ren so we will share drop off/collection points and timings for each group.

15. Plan increased cleaning as toys and equipment can only be used by one group

16. Plan increased cleaning during and end of each day



For those children who gain a place in school, there are some strict guidelines specified by the Government:

1. No unnecessary use of buses/coaches/taxis for children arriving to school, encourage children to cycle or walk to school.
2. No visitors/staff/children/families/contractors can enter the building if they have symptoms
3. Only 1 parent/carer can escort a child to school
4. Parents/carers cannot gather at school gates and doors.
5. Don't share stationery or resources. Shared areas and surfaces need cleaning daily, and disinfected/bleached frequently
6. There will be no possessions from home brought to school (except packed lunches) and no resources will be taken home.

I hope that the content of this letter helps to reassure you how important your child's safety is to us.

I urge you to complete the survey over the weekend so that we can make our detailed plans. Please complete the survey by **12pm** on Monday 18th May. **If you do not complete the survey by this time, we will assume that you do not require a place for your child/ren.** You will receive this by Friday. Please remember the decision to send your child back to school is yours. There will be no implications for parents who do not wish their child to attend.

Please bear with us whilst we work out all the logistics so that from June 1st, if the science support this, we can offer education to as many eligible children as safely as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Please take care and keep safe.

Mr. S Martin

Head Teacher

