

Friday 22nd May, 2020.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the half-term holiday begins, I thought I should write to you all and keep you informed of how things are progressing at our school and tell you about the plans that we are making. Here are some of the most important things you need to know:

- Half term holiday starts today and finishes on the 8th June.
- The school is expecting to receive a Health and Safety risk assessment from the Local Authority at some point today. As an academy, we buy our H&S services from the Local Authority, so we will be expected to use their format and risk assess our school.
- The Leadership Team and the Governing Body are working together as one team to assess the safety of our school, our procedures and our routines. Changes will have to be made to everything we knew as our typical school day, to ensure the safety of children and staff.
- Other primary and secondary schools in Gateshead have postponed their return to school. They are now planning to have a gradual phased return starting during the week of the 8th June. Government guidance has also changed this morning so we will take note of this and plan our return to school accordingly.
- If you have indicated on the survey that you would like a place for your child, we will contact you at some point in the near future to discuss offering you a place. The date of this contact depends upon the work required from the Health and Safety risk assessment that we hope to have today. If you did not complete the survey, or you have changed your mind, and you are thinking about asking for a place, we will set out a procedure for you to apply in the near future.
- I have limited class places to 8 children per room with one adult. Please note, once again, that I cannot guarantee your child will have their own Teacher or Teaching Assistant as some of our staff are vulnerable and will not be allowed to work with children. Some will not be on site.
- Breakfast club and Tea Time Club will both be open once we return but only to a very small number of children and children of key workers will be given priority.
- No child should return to school until I have confirmed a place and a start date and time with you.
- Throughout this lockdown, the staff have been sent work by me and they have worked very hard indeed. I have asked them all to take a break from posting learning on our Facebook over the holiday period, so you will notice a big difference there. Once we re-open the school to more children, the remote learning will return, but will be in line with the work of the children in school and there will be a higher expectation for your children to complete set work. Staff will be calling children who have not completed online learning. I know some of you have found home education challenging to say the least. Don't worry, we will be thinking carefully about how we can avoid adding to your stress and **we** will be telling your children the work must be completed. We will be communicating with you and supporting you if this is necessary.

I know there is so much to think about. At school there is so much work to be done to get ready to welcome our children back safely. At home, there is so much uncertainty and worry. My hope is that we can work together, supporting each other, to get through this difficult time safely and with our mental health intact.



Headteacher:
Mrs J.M. Goodfellow
B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

Raising Pupil Aspirations.

We are still open during the holiday for emergency childcare for vulnerable children or children of front line workers who are unable to arrange other childcare. I thank the generosity of my staff for this – they have been amazing!

I suggest you do your best to enjoy the half-term holiday. Keep up to date with the government guidance (it has changed today) and do not feel worried about the uncertainty of your child returning to school. Everything will work out in the end.

Keep smiling everyone!

Mrs J. Goodfellow (Headteacher)