



Whitgreave Primary School

Goodyear Avenue, Low Hill, Wolverhampton WV10 9JP

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Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Redfern

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well during these challenging times? As you will have already heard, the government have announced that providing the Covid-19 infection rate continues to improve, Primary Schools will be asked to welcome back children currently in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, **from the week commencing 1st June 2020.**

In light of this announcement, we have been working together to prepare for the potential return of these children. We are currently carrying out risk assessments, developing plans for the return of these Year Groups, organising resources and classrooms, staffing and also continuing to consult with our staff, unions and Local Authority. **However, please remember that the opening of our school, is fully dependant on the government instruction based on the infection rate at this time.**

Returning to School:

We will continue to follow government guidance in the anticipation of opening in June, however, we will initially be offering school places for two days per week - Monday & Tuesday OR Thursday & Friday. Places will not be offered on a Wednesday, to allow for a deep clean, hence ensuring the health and welfare of your children. In addition, it will allow time for staff to plan and prepare work for all children, both in school and at home.

Monday 1st June will be a Training Day, as recommended by the Local Authority. This will allow for any further adaptations to our learning environment and also, for any final health and safety checks to take place.

Therefore, in the first instance from Tuesday 2nd June, we will only be opening for Reception and also, for the children whose parents/carers are key workers or children who are classed as vulnerable, as we have been doing since 23rd March. A decision to open to additional Year Groups will be made after the 2nd June, as we continue to risk assess the situation.

Health and Safety:

Although our schools have been open during the lockdown period for vulnerable children and those whose parents/carers are key workers, there have been areas within our school buildings which have not been used during this time. We will therefore be undertaking an extensive health and safety check of all our school buildings prior to them re-opening. Where required, we will also be making adjustments to our fire drill procedures, which will be practised with the children. Comprehensive risk assessments are being carried out too.

Cleaning:

Once the children are back in school, all frequently touched surfaces, such as equipment, door handles and toilets used during the day will be cleaned thoroughly each day. Resources in work spaces will be kept to a minimum in order to make sure that they can be wiped clean. Wherever possible, resources which are not easily washable or wipeable will be removed.



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Contact Between Groups:

School will be introducing procedures to reduce wherever possible contact between different groups of children and staff members. It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, so children and staff where possible, will only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group will stay away from other people and groups. Where it is possible to keep children within those small groups 2 metres away from each other, we will do so.

Free School Meals:

Children claiming free school meals who attend school when it re-opens will be provided with a free prepared cold lunch. Arrangements will be made in school for lunch and snack times so that children do not mix with children from other groups. School will provide drinks and beakers for each individual child, we ask that parents/carers do not send any water bottles or lunch boxes into school, in order to avoid cross-contamination. If parents/carers prefer to send their child with their own packed lunch, then we ask that this is sent in in a plastic or paper bag, so that it can be thrown away after usage.

PPE:

We will adhere to the government guidance provided on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. This guidance states that it is not necessary for staff to wear masks, gloves and aprons unless they are carrying out activities that would usually require the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) or if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs supervision until they can return home. Any PPE worn by children in school needs to be removed before they enter the school. Guidance states that face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed, as this may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Travel:

Please ensure that you are familiar with current government advice on transport recommendations to and from school, which means reducing any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport where possible (for example, by walking or cycling to school).

Vulnerable Children/Key Worker Children:

Children who fall under this category will continue to have a space in school as normal. Parents and carers of these children are strongly encouraged to bring in their children, but the government have stated they will not face fines or other sanctions if they don't during this period.

We will be in touch shortly to inform you of the Year Groups that will be returning first, on what dates, school day times, pick up and drop off procedures etc. Throughout this entire process the safety of our children, families and staff have remained our ultimate priority and any decisions we make are driven by this in line with the guidance provided by the government.

Many thanks.

Mrs Redfern - Head Teacher