



Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Guidance for the full re-opening of schools in Autumn 2020

Parents will be aware that the Government published the guidance for schools to fully open in the Autumn term. The whole school team are very much looking forward to welcoming back all the children. The guidance states clearly, 'the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school.' Please be reassured that the staff recognise that the mental health of the children, and social and emotional impact of recent events, must be considered in supporting their return to school. We will continue to work in partnership with parents and families to identify and address issues that arise. The guidance also states that, 'returning to school is vital for children's wellbeing'.

It is important to advise you of some key points within the document and how these can be implemented at our school, and would greatly appreciate any thoughts you have regarding these.

- Judgments/decisions will be made at a school level, using the national guidance from GOV.UK and the Local Authority, both in terms of health and education.
- Our current risk assessment will be revised and amended considering the balance of catching Coronavirus and enabling the children to access a full educational experience. This will be available on the website before we return to school in September.
- School attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the Autumn term. Pupils who remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care before returning to school. Please let school know if you believe your child may fall into this category.
- Schools have been asked to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day. As an infant school, we will rely on "bubbles" of children and staff. Due to the age and stage of development of our children, we cannot rely upon their ability to socially distance from each other. We are advised not to gather for assemblies and to consider staggered start times, break times and lunch times. The overall amount of teaching time will not be affected.
- Careful consideration must be given to accommodating a class sized bubble, for example the children are not to sit facing one another at tables/desks in the classroom. It is likely therefore that some furniture will have to be removed from the classrooms. Staff will work hard to ensure that classrooms are still warm and welcoming.
- For frequently used items, children will have their own bag of equipment. This will include a pencil case provided by the school. Children will be able to take limited resources necessary to support learning, home and back into school, such as reading books. Certain resources, such as sports equipment cannot be shared frequently due to the nature of their usage.
- The provision of (Universal Free School) meals will take place in school, we will keep you advised of the safest way we can do this.
- Children should wear school uniform and the uniform does not need to be cleaned more often than usual.
- All schools will need to plan for the possibility of further lockdown, ensuring continuity of education via immediate access to remote learning. Google classrooms will continue to be developed over the coming weeks. Staff will be trained to use Google Meet to support home learning should this be necessary.

- Essential measures must be in place and include;
  1. People who are ill must stay at home. Staff or children who have coronavirus symptoms, or who live with someone who has coronavirus symptoms must remain at home.
  2. Robust hand cleaning must take place. Children will wash their hands frequently using soap and water. Please teach your child how to do this thoroughly.
  3. Excellent standards of respiratory hygiene are critical. We will further promote, 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.
  4. Enhanced cleaning arrangements must be in place in school.
  5. Active engagement with NHS Track and Trace is critical across the whole school community.
  6. Minimising contamination across groups as far as is reasonable practicable.
  7. Should anyone in school display symptoms they will be sent straight home. It is essential that school have up-to-date contact numbers for all children. There will be an allocated isolation room within school.
- Routines for good hygiene and social distancing shall be built in to the school culture and Behaviour Policy, including a child speak version.
- Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of a face masks in school.

Next steps...

Look out for a Pupil Voice Questionnaire that we have produced to ascertain the thoughts and feelings of our children, both the children who have been in school over the last weeks, and those who haven't. This will be emailed over the next few days.

Prior to the end of term we will send you a child friendly e-book, via google classrooms, to share with your child over the summer to help support their return to school. We are also going to record a short virtual tour of our school. Again this will be available on google classroom. Transition information is available on the web-site to look at and share with your child.

In the autumn term we shall spend time talking and working with the children to ensure that they can express their feelings about returning to school after such an extended period away. At the beginning of the autumn term we are planning to do a whole school theme centred on well-being.

You may be aware that the government have pledged £1 billion to further support children in coming back to school. At the current time we are awaiting further information from the Local Authority regarding how this will impact us financially at GMCIS.

We will liaise with Great Moor Junior School to find out whether they intend to reopen the before and after school provision for infant children. We will inform you as soon as we know.

We will, of course, keep you updated with plans as they progress in school, and any changes that may occur at a national or local level.

We appreciate that our parents and children will have some concerns about returning to school in September. Please email with any thoughts, concerns or questions you may have to [admin@greatmoor-inf.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatmoor-inf.stockport.sch.uk) . We welcome your perspective and we will do our utmost to support you.

Kindest wishes

*Yvonne Dobson*

Yvonne Dobson – Headteacher