



Giffard Park Primary School

Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park

Milton Keynes, MK14 5PY

Tel: 01908 617868

Headteacher: Miss E Donoghue B Ed (Hons)

Email: office@giffardpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Friday 22nd May 2020

Update for the planned return of Smart Steps, Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 children

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you all once again for your continued support at this challenging time. I am writing to you today to inform you of the next stages of our planning for the phased return of Smart Steps, Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6. At this time, these are the year groups that are being prioritised by the government to return to school first. As you know, it is the Government's ambition for Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 to return to school before the Summer break, however, we have not received any further guidance on this as yet.

Below I have outlined the plan for the children who will be returning to school. Our overarching priority, as always, is the safety of the children and staff.

What will school look like for the children

School will be very different for the children and you will need to prepare your child for this. I am very concerned that the children (especially the younger ones) have now missed 8 weeks of school and may find the changes to routine and transition back to school very challenging. They will probably be feeling very anxious about coming back. Please reassure them that even though it will be different, all of the staff will be here to look after them and support them. For the first few days we will be doing lots of work with the children in their bubbles, to help their wellbeing and anxiety, reinforcing the new routines and expectations, before we start to do any form of formal learning. The safety, wellbeing and happiness of the children will come first.

We hope to post some pictures on our Facebook page of the classrooms when they are set up so that you can share these with your child and prepare them for the changes.

How the bubbles will be organised/staffing

We have carried out a detailed risk assessment and as such the maximum number of children we can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in our classrooms is 12. Therefore, the children will be organised into bubbles of up to 12 children with 2 adults allocated per bubble. The adults for each group will remain the same until the end of the Summer Term unless they become unwell, have to isolate or suffer a bereavement.

Each group will be taught by a teacher, with the exception of one bubble in Foundation, where they will be taught by the teaching assistants they are familiar with, under the direction of the Foundation Leader. I have redeployed the staff from across the school but where possible the children will be with at least one adult with whom they are familiar, however this may not be their normal class teacher. The children will remain in their bubbles throughout the day and will not be allowed to mix with any other bubbles in the school.



Routines for arrival and departure

To reduce the number of people on the school site and in the interest of infection control and social distancing, we will be operating staggered start and finish times for different groups of children.

Parents will be informed of when they can drop off their children and that this should happen at the main school pedestrian gate or back gate or playground gate depending on year group. Only one parent will be permitted at drop off/collection times. **I will include details of which 'bubble' your child is in and their drop off/pick up time in a letter next week. This will also include a home-school agreement.**

Children will enter and exit their designated gate, keeping a social distance following markings on the ground. A queuing system and a process for staff to greet each child has been agreed, children will wash their hands immediately on arrival. Children will then use anti-bacterial hand gel as they enter individual classrooms. (Should your child be unable to use anti-bacterial hand gel – please inform us via email at school@giffardpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk)

Group	Collection/drop off point
Smart Steps	Car park pedestrian gate
Foundation	Car park pedestrian gate
Year 1	Back gate (Y3/4)
Year 6	Playground gate
Key Worker group	Playground gate

Expectations for parents

- No parents/carers will be able to enter the school site without prior arrangement.
- Only one adult will be able to come to the drop off and pick up points to collect their children and social distancing outside the school grounds **must** be adhered to.
- Urgent communication can be made with the staff member on the gate, for all other communication please email or telephone the school office.
- Social distancing **must** be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection, otherwise you could be potentially putting staff and children's lives at risk.

Early closure Friday afternoon

We will close at **12.30pm on a Friday** for all children with the exception of those in our Critical Workers provision. This early closure is in order to provide us time to do a deep clean of the school.

What break and lunchtimes will look like:

There will be no contact sports such as football and basketball. The outside spaces will be physically zoned off so that the children have an allocated zone that they will play in every day with their bubble. They will also have a box of play equipment that will be dedicated to only their bubble. The adults supervising them will be those from their bubble. There will be no contact sports and all equipment will be cleaned before and after use. Strict protocols for hand washing will be in place and social distancing encouraged. There will be staggered breaks and lunchtimes in order to avoid any bubbles mixing.





Giffard Park Primary School

Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park

Milton Keynes, MK14 5PY

Tel: 01908 617868

Headteacher: Miss E Donoghue B Ed (Hons)

Email: office@giffardpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Lunches

Essence catering company will provide packed lunches for all children entitled to Free School Meals, including Foundation and Year 1 children. If you have chosen for your child not to attend school and they are entitled to Free School Meals we will continue to issue you with vouchers. For the rest of the children in school, they will be encouraged to bring a packed lunch from home. The children will eat their lunches in their bubbles in the classrooms.

How we plan to keep the children safe:

I cannot state that we can prevent child to child, child to adult, adult to adult or adult to child transmission. Many children, especially those who are in Smart Steps Preschool, Foundation, Year 1 or children with particular special needs will not understand or be able to follow social distancing guidance. However, we have carried out detailed risk assessments and put measures in place to minimize the risks.

Social distancing

- Social distancing markers will be in place all around the school and children will be encouraged to follow these. Desks in classes will be set out for the children in most year groups so that they are seated 2m apart. The children will have an individual zipper wallet provided by the school for their resources e.g. pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers - these will not be shared with other children.
- Only 2 children will be permitted to use the toilet at one time and this will be supervised by an adult to ensure social distancing is adhered to.

Hand washing/hygiene protocols

- On arrival and at least every hour, children will wash their hands - washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and then dry them thoroughly. They may use the provided alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered if this is required.
- Children will be taught and will apply good respiratory hygiene by promoting the **'catch it, bin it, kill it'** approach. Children will be reminded to avoid touching their mouth, nose and eyes with their hands or the faces of other children.

School uniform

- The children will not be required to wear school uniform. They should dress in clothing suitable for PE ie: T-shirt, shorts/tracksuit and trainers. We recommend putting clothes straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection. Each day your child should be coming into school in a fresh set of clothes.

What to bring to school

In order to limit the chance of infection children **should not** bring in:

- Toys/items from home including show and tell items
- Soft toys/comforters
- A bag/rucksack
- Books from home
- No book bags



All soft furnishings and teddies have been removed from the classrooms. Children will not be able to bring in a bag/rucksack from home unless it contains a change of clothes that may be required due the child having toileting/medical issues.

Children **should bring in:**

- A named water bottle
- Their packed lunch in a named lunch box
- Sunhat/sunglasses (if required)

In light of any hot weather can you please ensure that you have applied **suntan lotion** to your child at home before they come to school.

For those children in Smart steps/FS/Y1 and Y6 who decide not to send their children to school

It is not compulsory to send your child to school. You can keep your child at home and home school them. You will **not** be fined by the school or the Local Authority or the Government if your child does not attend. Home learning will still be available online and in a paper format for all children and distanced learning support from teachers will continue.

Children of Key/Critical workers

You have the choice of your child returning to school into their class bubble or to remain in the Critical worker club that will continue to run in school. However, once the children have joined a bubble they will **not** be able to move out of it. So if you wish your child to continue in the care club then you must inform us so that we staff it accordingly.

The curriculum

As I mentioned earlier, our first priorities will be to help the children feel as happy and safe as possible about being in school and to teach them about social distancing inside and outside the school building. Our curriculum provision will involve as much outdoor learning as possible and will focus on mental and physical health and on reading, writing and maths. No school will be held to account by the Government for providing a curriculum that has been adapted to meet the needs of our children.

Wrap around care

There are no plans to open any of these clubs in phase one. This will be reviewed in terms of safety in the Autumn Term.

I will write to parents/careers of the specific year groups again next week to inform you of which 'bubble' your child will be in so that we can give you a specific drop off and pick up time. Please take the time to digest the information in this letter carefully; it is an extremely difficult decision to make in what are unprecedented times. We are reopening the parent survey for you to record your final decisions. Whatever decision you make will be the right one, you know your child best and I will totally respect and support whatever you decide to do.

In the meantime, thank you for all of your support and I wish all our families a happy and safe half term.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E Donoghue
Headteacher

