



Giffard Park Primary School

Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park

Milton Keynes, MK14 5PY

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Friday 15th May 2020

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for your continued support for our whole school community at this difficult time. On Monday, I wrote to you following the Prime Minister's broadcast and at that time we had not been given any guidance on how to plan for a phased return for Smart Steps, Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 children. Over the period of this week, including last night, the government has released more detailed documents for how schools can implement a plan.

Parent Survey

Thank you to those parents who have responded to our survey this has really helped us to have an initial idea of numbers so that we can plan accordingly. Some of the parents who did respond asked some really good questions and I will try and answer some of these with the most up to date information I have. Please know all of my answers are from the advice I have been given from the Government.

Here are some of your frequently asked questions and the answers I have based on the latest information.

Is the school going to be 100% safe and stop my child from catching the virus?

No. 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.

I don't want to send my child / children in. Is it compulsory? Will I get a fine?

No. 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.

If I do send my child to school, what are the plans to keep them safe?

We will try and keep all children and adults as safe as possible by following the Government recommendations as follows:

Children will:

- Be in maximum class sizes of 15 and encouraged where possible to be socially distant and will remain in this group/ 'bubble' until the end of the Summer Term
- Will have access to antibacterial hand gel and be reminded constantly and be supervised when washing their hands
- Will only be able to go to the toilet in pairs and 'where possible' keep 2 metres apart



- 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 share other resources (e.g. playground resources) with their own group - these will be cleaned each day
- Have staggered breaks throughout the day and will only have their break with their group, separate from other groups on the playground
- Only drink from their own water bottle or a disposable cup
- Only eat snacks or lunch with the children in their group
- Be dropped off and picked up at staggered start and end times
- Children will have their temperature taken using a non contact thermometer and any child with a temperature and or a cough will be sent home immediately and required to self isolate

A full risk assessment will be carried out at each change of phase to ensure we are following all guidance on keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Who will be teaching my child? Can they have their teacher or familiar adult?

All schools have staff who are not able to be in school at the moment and this is changing constantly. This is why your child may not be with their familiar adult. Once I know the numbers of children who are definitely coming in, I will begin to organise the teams of adults. 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, if I have enough teachers. If I do not have enough teachers at any time, the groups will be taught by a Teaching Assistant under the direction of a teacher.

Will the children be taught a broad and balanced curriculum?

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.

Will the children be in all day everyday?

Our aim is for the children in the key year groups to be in every day, I will give you further information once all the numbers have been confirmed.

Will all of the children start on the 1st of June?

The 1st of June is an INSET day and the staff will be working in school to set up the classrooms ready for the children to start from Tuesday 2nd June.

Will children be able to bring reading books home?

Children will not be allowed to bring reading books home under current safety guidance.

Will lunches be provided?

Children who usually have a school lunch will be able to order one but this is likely to be a packed lunch so that we can eat safely in our small groups. Alternatively, parents may choose to send their children in with a packed lunch.

Will the breakfast club or after school club be open? Will there be any after school clubs?

No, 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.



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Will any changes be made to cleaning?

All resources shared by a group will be cleaned at the end of each day.

All classrooms will be cleaned when children are out on their breaks and at the end of each day.

The whole school will be cleaned at the end of each day.

Toilets will be cleaned three times within the day and at the end of each day.

What time will I have to pick up my child?

Children will need to be collected at the stated staggered pick up times.

Who can come with me to pick up my child or children?

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.

Will the teachers and children be provided with PPE?

Government guidance states that our staff and children do not need PPE equipment. If an adult chooses to wear PPE equipment to help them feel safer I will support this but we have not been requested to supply it. Children will not be provided with PPE equipment. If you choose to send them in with a mask then they will have to change this themselves and know how to dispose of this safely.

If I choose not to send my child to school how will I know any changes?

We will keep you fully informed through Parentmail, letters, Facebook and personally by answering email/telephone queries.

How do I know where you are getting your guidance from? Which document may help answer any of my other questions?

Please see the following link

Guidance for parents and carers as schools and other education settings in England open to more children and young people can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Wishing you all a healthy and safe weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Donoghue
Headteacher

