

# Giffards Primary School

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## 'Valuing Everyone As Learners'

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure that many of you will already be aware that yesterday evening the government announced that due to the rise in COVID-19 infections locally and across the South East, all schools in Thurrock will remain closed for most pupils. This will be reviewed again by the Government before 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. At the moment we are expecting all pupils back on this date.

### **Critical workers and pupils deemed vulnerable**

During the next two weeks, schools will only be open for children of [critical workers](#), these are where a parent's work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined by following the link above, and those pupils defined as [vulnerable](#).

School is aware of our vulnerable pupils including those on EHC Plans and those with social workers and we will be contacting these parents individually via Groupcall email to inform them of what this means for their family. Please respond to that message, once received, to inform us if your child/ren will be attending.

Where you believe you are a critical worker, to be as prepared as possible for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, we are asking parents to let us know by completing the attached form. This form must be completed and returned by email to [admin@giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk](mailto:admin@giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk) with the information requested as soon as possible and preferably by 6pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, however no later than 9am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January so we are aware of who will be attending.

### **Pupils who must not attend:**

- **No pupil should attend school if parents are not identified as critical workers (the exception to this being if we have contacted you to offer your child a place in school over the coming weeks).**
- No-one should attend school if they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household. This includes where a household member is currently experiencing symptoms or has tested positive, including siblings.

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## **Children who are remaining at home**

The majority of our children will be at home. The children are expected to continue their learning through our remote learning offer. Please find attached a separate reminder letter explaining what this is. Many children will have already brought home a plastic wallet which includes an exercise book, White Rose maths booklet and stationary pack. Where these are still at school we will endeavour to deliver these once school is open, but due to the large number this may take a few days. This should not prevent your child from continuing work.

## **Free school meals**

We have arranged for vouchers to be sent for the next two weeks for the same amount of £15 per child per week as over Christmas. Anyone eligible will receive the email from Edenred as previously within the next few days, please do keep an eye out for this.

## **Keeping in touch**

It will be really important that you check the school website/twitter feeds and Groupcall messages regularly.

It is expected that all pupils working from home will log onto Purple Mash daily to complete the work set. Teachers will be using the '2email' function to liaise daily with pupils. Where there is no evidence of pupils completing work, teachers will ring. We have limited phone lines to make calls and some staff may also be working remotely, so some calls will be made from personal phone numbers and may show as a private number or withheld, we ask that you accept these calls so we can support with home learning. Teachers will upload work by 8.30am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for that week and by 8.30am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> for the following week.

## **Arrangements for pupils attending school**

### **Breakfast club**

As normal from 7.30am in the KS1 dining hall, children will be taken to class at 8.45am. The cost remains at £2.50 per session but does not need to be booked in advance as previously.

### **Children in school**

Children will remain in year group bubbles but depending on numbers may not be in the same classroom they are used to. All the protective measure we had in place previously will remain, but during this increased wave of infection staff may be wearing masks in and around school. Pupils are not asked to wear masks due to the spread of infection when they fiddle with or remove them.

Parents are asked to keep any pupil off school who is showing any symptoms of Covid-19. Any positive cases will still mean the closure of a bubble to all pupils including critical worker and vulnerable pupils.

## **Organisation of the day**

School will start at 8.45am for all pupils.

All parents are requested to wear a mask/visor whilst on school premises to keep our community safe.

**KS1** - all KS1 pupils should enter via the KS1 main entrance as normal. EYFS pupils can be collected from class at the end of the day. Years 1 and 2 should be collected from the KS1 playground at 3pm.

**KS2** - all KS2 pupils should enter via the front gate (by the big yellow tent) and make their way to the children's entrance (which is where Years 3 and 4 have been entering for the last

term) the playground entrance will be closed. Pupils can be collected from the same place at 3.10pm.

### **What to wear**

Pupils should wear sporty type clothing, such as a track suit, leggings with trainers/plimsoles daily as we hope to be doing daily PE activities, weather permitting. All classrooms will be well ventilated so all pupils must dress warmly and bring an outdoor coat.

### **Lunchtime**

Pupils will eat in class. A daily lunch option will still be available as it was last term. Children entitled to Free school meals should bring a packed lunch as vouchers are being sent to families.

Packed lunches can be bought in. Please ensure your child has a full water bottle daily.

### **Learning**

Children in school will be covering the full curriculum as planned by their teachers but may not be taught by their own teacher as teaching staff will also be leading on the remote learning for pupils working from home.

Finally, I would just like to thank you for being so incredibly supportive of school in the past few days. Like you we only find out what plans the Government has by watching the news, we are not informed in advance. Your patience and understanding is very much appreciated whilst we make and possibly refine our plans. These are unprecedented times and I know how worrying this situation is, I hope that together, as a school community, we will continue to support one another and make the best of the situation that we are faced with.

During this second period of closure, if you need help or support, please do get in touch via telephone (01375 672138) or via [admin@giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk](mailto:admin@giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk) and we will do all we can to help you. We are likely to experience a high number of calls as you can appreciate and are also coping with staff absence but we will respond as soon as we can.

As a reminder, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is a scheduled Inset day. Pupils who are returning to school can do so from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Remote learning for pupils remaining at home will start from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January also.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Haslam-Davis  
Headteacher

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