



Thursday 14th May, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are all well and safe. In today's letter I want to answer some of the questions that you have been asking, as best I can.

Is the 1 June a definite opening day for children in nursery, reception, Y1 and Y6?

No. It is dependent on conditions set by the government being met. We have been asked to prepare in case those conditions are met. We don't know when, or if, that date will be confirmed.

Has the government released any information about how schools are supposed to keep children safe?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

Is the guidance issued the final guidance?

We have been told that the guidance above is draft guidance and will be developed with Public Health England. I understand that whilst this situation is rapidly changing not having definitive advice is frustrating and concerning.

I don't want my child to come back to school yet as I don't feel it is safe. What will happen if I don't send them?

There will be no action taken. I very much understand that you have individual concerns at this time.

Can you guarantee my child's safety?

We will plan and follow government guidance. Guidance says that schools should prepare for potential opening on June 1 and the safety of everyone in school is my primary concern. The government has not yet produced the scientific evidence which led to the potential date of return of June 1. The DFE have said this evidence will be available soon but no date has been shared. Their 'ambition' is for all children to return to primary schools for a month before the summer. (By about the 22nd June) We do not know if this will happen.

Can you guarantee that my child will be kept 2m apart from other children?

As before lock down children will be asked to wash their hands on arrival and regularly through the day.
Years 1 & 6

Our planning includes having small groups that don't mix, having defined areas that each group uses, a tray of equipment for each child, staggered starts and ends of the day and staggered break and lunch



times. This is all part of the government guidance. However, I cannot guarantee that children will fully understand being able to stay 2m apart.

Goldcrests & Reception

The children will not be asked to physically distance (this would be very difficult for them to understand and potentially upsetting) but will be encouraged not to touch others and resources that will be used, will be easy to clean each day. Soft furnishings, play dough etc will not be used.

I have children in different year groups. Can siblings come back if they are not in Y2, 3, 4 or 5?

No. Only children in nursery, reception, Y1 and Y6 are potentially going to be able to come to school unless you are in the key worker group.

If we come back on June 1 will my child be taught by their usual teacher in their usual classroom?

This is unlikely and guidance is very clear in this regard. Goldcrests will be in the nest with familiar staff. Children in YR, Y1 and Y6 will be split into smaller groups of no more than 15 and taught in defined spaces (not necessarily their own classrooms) by a consistent group of staff. Those teaching them will not necessarily be their usual class teacher/teaching assistant as classes will be split, some staff are shielding and some are clinically vulnerable and will not be in work.

What will the start and end of the day look like?

Our plans are developing and include year groups being allocated staggered start and end of day times as well as specific gates to use. Spacing markers will be used to ensure that there are no gatherings at the gates. In line with guidance, only one parent should accompany children and parents will not be allowed on site other than in an emergency. Members of staff will be at each gate to enable messages to be passed to class teachers. We are planning that nursery children will be collected from their gate by a member of staff.

If you have a message for school, please either phone in or email before or after dropping off, rather than going into the main office. Mrs Blake will get back to you as soon as possible.

Parents must comply with the safety routines that we set out or your children will not be able to come to school.

Will you continue with home learning packs for children not in school?

Yes. Feedback on these has been really good and children are in a routine with them.

Will you run breakfast and after school clubs?

Sadly this is not possible at the moment. This would be difficult to staff and would mean a new group of children mixing. We have been advised that groups should be consistent, use the same spaces and work with the same adults. This would be impossible in breakfast and after school clubs.

In order to facilitate this our staff will be working with few opportunities to have a break in difficult circumstances always trying to put the needs of our children first.

What will lunch look like?

GSMA will be helping us hugely by providing packed lunches for all children requiring them. This will enable us to reduce risk of transmission by not using the hall and allowing them to all eat at the same time in their classrooms before their allocated 'outside' slot. An order form will be distributed if the 1st June is confirmed.

FSM vouchers will continue to be sent out for those eligible and not attending school



What will my child be taught if they come back to school?

These plans are developing. There will be a focus on well-being as well as the basics of reading, writing and maths. It is likely to reflect the content of packs which will become weekly in line with school based learning.

Whilst we would like to celebrate with Year Six in the normal way, this will obviously be impossible but we are working on a few bits.

What can you do to help us now? VERY IMPORTANT

Please do this If you are a **Key Worker**, or have children in **Goldcrests, Reception, Year 1 or 6**, regardless of whether you are coming to school at present or not.

Send an **email** by the end of Friday 15th May to kmiles@goodrich.hereford.sch.uk stating whether you **will, may or won't** send your child to school if we are required to open as outlined on the 1st June.

If you have stated that you will **NOT** send them in **please say why** for our records. You may wish to add any other detail about your thoughts (if you are a key worker or have questions about something specific) at this time which we will keep in mind.

If your child is in **Goldcrests** please state whether you would like your child to return on the 1st June or not and **whether you could be flexible on sessions and hours** in order for us to keep groups small and take care of our staff too. Tell us what you would like ideally and we will do our best.

I hope that the information above answers some of your questions. I know there are lots more and as we move forward I will keep sharing the information that I have with you. The fact that information changes, sometimes daily, is difficult but by keeping in touch we can make safe, considered decisions.

Take care everyone

Miles

Karen Miles
Headteacher

