



Children are at the centre of everything we do

Sunday 3 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well and that you managed to have a relaxing break over the festive season.

I thought it would be helpful for me to update you on events that have taken place over the Christmas holidays both nationally and within the school community.

Following the Government's announcements last week, I texted you on 30 December to confirm that Greenway will remain open for children to return to school on Tuesday 5 January. Staff have an Inset training day on Monday 4 January.

You will have seen a lot of discussion within the media over the weekend about whether all schools should be closed nationally and not just those within certain areas. As at the time of writing it would appear that the Government is intent on keeping as many schools open as possible and therefore the position with regard Greenway remains unchanged ie we will reopen on Tuesday 5 January, subject to what I say below.

You will recall that I wrote to all of you on 18 December to advise you that we had a positive COVID case in the Reception class bubble. Unfortunately, since then we have had some members of staff who have tested positive for COVID over the Christmas break. Whilst these positive test results have not required us to ask any pupils to self isolate, these staff members are not yet recovered and are not in a position to return to work next week, as they need more time to recuperate. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well.

I have liaised with the Local Authority and the Governors and we have had to take the very difficult decision, to close Nursery class for next week ie the week commencing Tuesday 5 January-Friday 8 January inclusive, due to lack of staffing capacity. I do appreciate that this is short notice and trust that those families impacted will not be too inconvenienced by this. We will not be providing any remote learning for Nursery pupils during this week but would ask that you continue to read with your children if you are able to do so.

Please may I ask you to contact admin via email on admin@greenway.herts.sch.uk and NOT nursery if you have any queries or concerns.

At the moment we are able to continue to run Breakfast Club and WACCY but you will appreciate that circumstances may change.

Looking ahead, if the school is required to close, we thought it prudent to ask you to complete the short google survey – see link below.

<https://forms.gle/mv1Zj4xefKyBQ2T77>

This survey is to enquire about whether you as parents have keyworker status and, if so, whether you would like your child/ren to access school provision. The survey is short, and we would like to update our records to that we can plan accordingly. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please complete and return this as soon as possible but in any event by **midday on Tuesday 5 January**.

One or two of you have been in contact with me regarding your concerns over the safety of the children and staff returning to school. May I reassure you that we continue to prioritise children and staff's safety and we are continually reviewing our risk assessments. **Please may I urge you to continue to comply with the procedures we currently have in place, so that we can all work together to minimise the spread of COVID.**

Please remember:

- To wear face masks when on the school site
- To keep 2m apart from each other whilst queuing at the school gates at drop off and pick up aswell as if you need to wait on the school grounds for collection of siblings – **this is crucial**.
- To only meet outdoors on a 1 to 1 basis outside of school – households should not be mixing with other households outside of school either indoors or outdoors unless it is on a 1 to 1 basis.

There is no doubt that this term is going to be challenging. We all need to be sensible, considerate of others and keep following the COVID guidelines. I want to reassure you that the Governors and staff will continue to work very hard to provide as safe a learning environment as possible and we will keep you updated as events unfold.

Thank you for you continued understanding and I look forward to seeing you all at the gate on Tuesday!

Regards

Katharine Ellwood
Headteacher