



GUSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for taking the time to either complete the survey that we sent out last week or talking to us on the phone this week to discuss the phased reopening of school.

As you can imagine it has been a very complex task to plan and organise such a return with so many variables to consider such as:

- Pupils Numbers. The number of pupils in priority groups (Critical workers and vulnerable pupils, YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils) and the views of parents about the possibility of returning.
- Safeguarding. We have also had to ensure we follow the guidance issued around social distancing pupils and staff to reduce the risks for all. Groups or 'bubbles' must be no more than 15 and need to be in discrete areas and not mix with other 'bubbles' This guidance has had a significant impact on our capacity to offer places for all the priority groups due to our limited space.
- Staffing. Due to the clear guidelines around clinical vulnerabilities, we are not working at full capacity staffing wise.

Taking all these things into consideration, we have found ourselves in a position where we are unable to offer the provision for all YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils that the Government is asking us to.

Therefore we will be offering places to the first priority group, that of pupils in YR-Y6 of Critical Workers. Meaning, if you a parent of a child in YR, Y1 or Y6, and are NOT a critical worker, we are unfortunately unable to accommodate your child at this time.

We have managed to accommodate all children of critical workers (as defined in the Governments' guidance document "Critical Workers who can access Schools or Education settings" published on 14th May 2020 (link below)) that have confirmed their intention to return to school on 1st June. However we will need to see a letter confirming critical worker status from employers. The employer's letter and final confirmation should be emailed to admin@guston.kent.sch.uk. The deadline for this is **midday on 26th May, 2020.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Once we have received the appropriate documentation, we will write to parents with details of school arrangements including:

1. Staffing of 'bubbles'

2. Classroom/areas that will be being used and what these will look like with social distancing measures in place. A warning: they will look significantly different with limited resources available.
3. Times of the day (these will be different as we will have to stagger the start and end times for different 'bubbles')
4. Collection and drop off arrangements adhering to social distancing protocols.
5. A revised home school agreement which will need to be signed to take account of the changes

Teachers will continue to plan for remote learning for those at home and this will be the work that is being completed by those at school too. However liaison via email through the school day will be no longer be possible due to teachers supervising pupils in school. Teachers will, however pick up emails at the end each day and respond appropriately.

We will be reviewing our provision on a weekly basis and increasing our capacity if possible.

This plan has been devised assuming the five tests that the Government set will have been met and it has been judged that it is safe to open schools. If this is not the case, Government guidance will undoubtedly change and we will write to you with further information.

Thank you for your continued understanding at this very challenging time.

Best wishes

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Day