

15th May, 2020

Dear Parents,

We now have only one week left until the end of this term and the talk everywhere is about the potential of schools reopening to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on the 1st June, should the government decide that it is safe to do so.

Quite rightly, this has caused some concern from parents and staff - and I expect some children are also anxious. Rest assured that we are taking all the necessary precautions within the guidelines we have been given to ensure the safety of all in school. Unfortunately, the DfE seems to be drip-feeding this guidance to schools; another huge document was released last night and this is making planning for opening even more difficult. Please bear with us whilst our plans are forming - I would love to share with you definitive arrangements today but it's just not possible.

A detailed plan will be shared with the parents of children in these year groups early next week but what I can say is that Giles Brook School will not open to children until Tuesday 2nd June to allow for the clearing of classrooms and preparation of resources.

Children will be entering and leaving the school at staggered times and will, along with parents on school premises, have to follow strict social distancing practises. Children will be taught in classes no larger than 15 children. As you can imagine, the school also has rigorous hygiene rules to adhere to and so for at least the first three weeks back after half term, we intend to close the school at 1pm on Fridays to allow for a deep clean. I appreciate that this can make life a little tricky for our working parents but for the time being, I have a duty of care to keep everyone on site safe and well.

For children in Nursery, unfortunately we can only offer our children provision for 15 hours a week - either three hours in the morning or three hours in the afternoon, Monday to Thursday, plus one morning session on alternate Fridays. Thank you to those parents who have taken the time to email us to let us know the reasoning behind not sending children back at this time. I will not be able to respond to each email individually but all of your concerns have been noted.

Again, further details of nursery provision will be provided next week. If you have not already done so, please can all parents of nursery children indicate whether or not they will be taking up their nursery place by completing this form: <https://forms.gle/zMdE1ckR9sc2mRRS9>

I understand that life at school for these children is going to be a very different experience from what they are usually used to. However, you know that we will do our very best for the children in our care and as ever, we really appreciate your support. We can only make this a success if we work together.

With very best wishes

*Claire*

Headteacher