



Great Gaddesden C of E (V.A.) Primary School

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Sunday, 3rd January, 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and that you have had an enjoyable Christmas break. I wish you a happy and healthy 2021. At this time, our thoughts and prayers are with those in our school community for whom the recent weeks have been difficult.

Yet again, we find ourselves in uncertain times. I am sure you are all aware of the recent Government changes regarding Covid-19 restrictions. The situation is changing rapidly, but currently, primary schools in Dacorum are expected to open as planned from the beginning of term. For Great Gaddesden C of E Primary School, this is **Tuesday, 5th January, 2021**. However, there is growing pressure on our government from teaching unions and SAGE to move to remote learning. So our current situation may well change. There are a number of contributing factors to this.

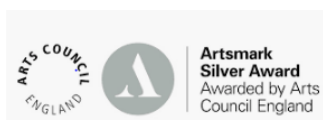
In order to be as prepared as possible, I outline below the three possible scenarios for our school that may occur in the coming weeks and months:

Plan A: School fully open but with stricter measures in place.

This is currently the plan from Tuesday, 5th January, 2021. Please be aware that we need to proceed with great caution as we are in an area with exceptionally high levels of infection. The current measures will be in place:-

- Only parents of EYFS pupils to enter the playground for drop off at the beginning and end of the school day. If your child is in Year 1/2 and you feel this may be detrimental to your child's wellbeing, you may accompany your child to the hand sanitising station and swiftly exit using the one-way system.
- Parents/carers to adhere strictly to the 2 metre distancing at drop off/pick up times.
- Parents who enter the school premises are expected to following the one-way system, swiftly exiting the school premises.
- Only **one** adult per family to be on school premises for drop off/collection times.
- Children will continue to be taught in bubbles.
- A renewed focus on hygiene, with full stocks of hand wash and sanitiser.
- A continued strict daily cleaning regime.
- The school will be well-ventilated at all times. As a result, please ensure your child wears extra layers under their school uniform.
- Breakfast Club and After School Club will continue (subject to staffing) with hours remaining the same as last term, as far as possible. Any changes will be communicated as soon as possible.

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated'. Luke 6:31



- Please follow guidance and keep your child/children at home if they show any symptoms of COVID-19 and follow track and trace or isolation advice. This is essential in order to maintain the wellbeing of our staff and the health and safety of our school community.
- If you and your family have been abroad during the Christmas break, please ensure that you follow the Government travel advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus# covid-19-travel-guidance> .
- Updates will continue to be communicated via letter, email, website and texts. Please ensure the office has up-to-date contact details and that you are checking emails and the school website regularly.
- Staggered start/end to the school day, using the 2 entrances/exits to the school, as per the arrangements of last term. Please see below for clarification:-

Year group	Drop off	Pick up time	Entry to school grounds
Nursery	8:45 – 8:55	As per each child's arrangements.	via playground gate.
Reception	8:45 – 8:55	3:00 - 3:10	Route into school: via playground gate to EYFS outdoor area End of day: collection from EYFS outside area
Year 1 / 2	9:00 – 9:05	3:15 – 3:20	via playground gate Route into school: via playground gate to Y1/2 classroom door End of day: collection from area outside Y1/2 classroom
Year 3 / 4	8:45 – 8:55	3:00 – 3:10	via garden gate Route to classroom: via school door in school garden, through Nurture Room to classroom. End of day: collection from school garden
Year 5 / 6	9:00 – 9:05	3:15 – 3:20	via garden gate Route to classroom: via school door in school garden, through Nurture Room, through library to classroom End of day: collection from school garden

Plan B: Partial opening – mixture of some bubbles in school and other bubbles receiving remote learning at home.

This plan may be put in place for several reasons, including: -

- The need for a bubble to self-isolate; and
- Staff absence.

Updates will continue via letter, email, website and texts. As above, please ensure the office has up-to-date contact details and that you check your emails and the school website regularly.

Plan C: Key workers and vulnerable children only in school, remainder of the school following remote learning from home.

- Remote learning will begin from the first full day of implementation of this plan.

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- All children will be provided with remote learning. Access to this will be via Google Classroom and the class page of the school website.
- Only key worker children and children considered to be 'vulnerable' will be in school. Mrs Birch-Palmer (in Pastoral Support role) and myself will initially liaise with families to assess those who fall into these categories.
- Definition of a 'Key Worker' remains the same as during the March lockdown.
- There will be a timetable for every class to follow to support you in maintaining a routine.
- Class email accounts created in March will be reopened (e.g. EYFS@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk)
- Work can be submitted via these accounts.
- Updates will continue via letter, email, website and texts. As above, please ensure the office has up-to-date contact details and that you check your emails and the school website regularly.

Please do not send children to school if any of the following apply: -

- Your child has *any* symptoms of COVID-19;
- Your child or any members of your household or support bubble, or any close contacts have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not completed the full 14 day isolation period.
Please note: close contacts include extended family and friends with whom you have had contact.

Current Government Guidance indicates that the main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A high temperature;
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot (for more than an hour), or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

If you are unsure whether symptoms you or your child are experiencing may be coronavirus, please consult the online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

In the event of a **positive** coronavirus test result within your household, please notify the school immediately via email or phone. This will enable us to complete the relevant track and trace process with public health and notify any other children or staff who have been in close contact and need to self-isolate.

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with activities such as shopping, getting medication or financial advice, please visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

During these difficult times, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to follow all guidance and statutory expectations in order to keep all our children and staff as safe as possible. We will continue to share updates from the Department of Education and Hertfordshire County Council.

Thank you for your support in helping us to maintain a place of safety for all. Please take care of yourself and your families.

Kind regards,

Mrs S.M.Wickens
Headteacher

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