



# GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Acting Headteacher: Mr Nick Usher BSc (Hons) PGCE M.Ed

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Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a relaxing Christmas break and have managed to enjoy some valuable time with your families. I have had the pleasure of reflecting on a very successful Autumn Term over the last couple of weeks. Our school was featured on the BBC for Children in Need; 88% of our Year 2 children met the expected standard in their phonics screening (the highest Godstone has ever achieved); we have implemented a brand new curriculum for the children to access including a new phonics scheme; and the children have performed brilliantly in numerous events, plays and assemblies. I am really looking forward to starting the Spring Term, continuing our school's successes and welcoming the children back on Thursday. Detailed below is some key information to support you with the start of term.

## Start and Finish Times

Please find our drop off and pick up times for the start and end of each school day below. It is important that all children arrive within their designated times.

	Drop off time	Pick up time	Location
<b>Nursery</b>	8.45am	2.45 pm*	Nursery front door
<b>Reception</b>	8.40 am – 8.50 am	3.00 pm	Reception side gate
<b>Year 1</b>	8.40 am – 8.50 am	3.10 pm	Reception side gate
<b>Year 2</b>	8.40 am – 8.50 am	3.15 pm	Main gate
<b>Year 3</b>	8.40 am – 8.50 am	3.20 pm	Main gate
<b>Year 4</b>	8.40 am – 8.50 am	3.20 pm	Main gate
<b>Year 5</b>	8.40 am – 8.50 am	3.20 pm	Main gate
<b>Year 6</b>	8.40 am – 8.50 am	3.20 pm	Main gate

\*Any late pick-ups will be charged at our normal rate.

## COVID-19

The DFE have not issued any significant updates for primary schools in relation to COVID-19 over the Christmas break. To mitigate against the potential spread of COVID-19 upon our return, we have decided to keep a lot of the protective measures in place from the Autumn Term. Please read the information below carefully so that you can support us in safeguarding everyone within the school.



*Inspirational Learning for Life*



## **Face Coverings**

Children will not be expected to wear face coverings at any point during the school day. Members of staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and when moving around in corridors. Parents who wish to enter the school site must wear a face covering, unless exempt. This includes when parents enter the school to speak with the school office. Any parent who fails to wear a face covering will not be granted access to the school. Parents and staff are not required to wear a face covering in outside spaces.

## **Mixing and Bubbles**

The children and staff will be able to move freely around school, although staff will be required to wear a face covering if in a communal area. There will not be any restrictions around children from different classes mixing with each other. Our contingency plan, in case of a COVID-19 outbreak, would involve a re-introduction of grouping the children into bubbles. This decision would not be taken lightly and will be communicated to parents as and when required.

## **Control Measures**

The DfE have implemented a range of 'control measures' to safeguard all within school, they are:

### **Ensure good hygiene for everyone**

- Frequent and thorough hand washing throughout the day
- Using the 'Catch it, kill it, bin it' approach
- Using face coverings as directed in this letter

### **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes**

- Utilise a cleaning schedule that focuses on regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces

### **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**

- Air will be purged regularly in all areas of the school. This will be countered by maintaining a comfortable learning environment for the children.
- Events within school will be adjusted to accommodate for ventilation needs.
- Each classroom has a CO2 monitor so staff can quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved.

### **Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19**

- Utilising DfE advice as described in the following section of this letter

## **Testing positive for COVID-19, tracing close contacts and isolation periods**

Parents, staff and children will need to self-isolate immediately following a positive COVID-19 test. NHS Test and Trace will work with any person who tests positive for COVID-19 to identify close contacts and give advice on isolation periods. A person who tests positive for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate for 10 days. However, they may be able to end their self-isolation period early if they take a lateral flow device (LFD) test on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day of self-isolation and these tests return negative results, and they do not have a high temperature. Then a person may end their period of self-isolation after the second negative test result on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of self-isolation.

Any person who is identified as a close contact in school will be identified by NHS Test and Trace as schools are no longer-expected to undertake contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent or identify close contacts. Adults who are fully vaccinated (2 doses of an approved vaccine) and all children and young

people aged between 5 and 18 years who are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 will need to take an LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms. Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts, however they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible.

### **Attendance**

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that all children regularly attend school. Repeated failure to attend school will be monitored by the school's attendance lead and reported to Mr Usher who will speak to parents where necessary.

### **Remote Education**

The Department for Education (DfE) have stated that the quality of the children's education is our highest priority at this time and that the children should be in school. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 but remains well, they must self-isolate and we will provide remote learning for them to complete at home. Please see the attached document for more details.

### **Pupil Wellbeing and Support**

Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. I have listed a range of resources that may support your child or others with the ongoing pandemic:

- [MindEd](#) - a free educational resource on children and young people's mental health
- [Every Mind Matters](#) - an online tool and email journey to support everyone in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing
- [Bereavement UK](#) and the [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff
- The [DfE blog](#) - includes [mental health resources](#) for children, parents, carers and school staff
- [Young Minds](#) - information on COVID-19 and mental health
- [Think Ninja](#) - a free app for 10 to 18 year olds to help build resilience and stay well
- [Every Mind Matters](#) - building resilience and supporting good mental health in young people aged 10 to 16

Get free, confidential support at any time by:

- texting SHOUT to 85258
- calling Childline on 0800 1111
- calling the Mix on 0808 808 4994

### **Wraparound Care – Swans**

Swans will continue to operate as normal. Our contingency plan, in case of a COVID-19 outbreak, would involve changes to the way that Swans operate. Any decision to change Swans will be communicated to parents as and when required.

### **School Meals**

Children who are self-isolating because they have COVID-19 or awaiting a COVID-19 test result can request that a school meal be delivered to their house if they are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact me via email – [deputy@godstone.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:deputy@godstone.surrey.sch.uk)

## Key Diary Dates

Please note that all information regarding our upcoming diary dates are subject to change.

### Maths Morning – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Maths morning will be cancelled on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January to limit the number of visitors socially interacting on the school premises.

### Year 4 Class Assembly – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Parents who attend the Year 4 assembly are required to provide **one** of the following pieces of information upon arrival to the school:

- Proof that you are **double vaccinated** (NHS COVID Pass for domestic events <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/get-digital-covid-pass/>)
- A negative **Lateral Flow Test (LFT)** from within 24 hours of your arrival at school

Parents must comply with **all** of the following restrictions for the duration of their visit to the school:

- Wear a **face covering** for the duration of your visit
- Use **hand sanitiser** upon entry and exit of the school (provided in the main office area)
- Maintain **social distance** from the adults and children (except for the child you are visiting) where possible

### Reading Morning – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Reading morning will be cancelled on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February to limit the number of visitors socially interacting on the school premises.

### Year 3 Class Assembly – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Parents who attend the Year 3 assembly are required to provide **one** of the following pieces of information upon arrival to the school:

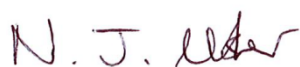
- Proof that you are **double vaccinated** (NHS COVID Pass for domestic events <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/get-digital-covid-pass/>)
- A negative **Lateral Flow Test (LFT)** from within 24 hours of your arrival at school

Parents must comply with **all** of the following restrictions for the duration of their visit to the school:

- Wear a **face covering** for the duration of your visit
- Use **hand sanitiser** upon entry and exit of the school (provided in the main office area)
- Maintain **social distance** from the adults and children (except for the child you are visiting) where possible

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Nick Usher**

Acting Headteacher