



Gainsborough Primary and Nursery School

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Federation Headteacher: Mrs J Booth

School Principal: Mrs J Nurse

8th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to take the opportunity, first of all, to **thank** the large number of parents who have sent us positive feedback about the provision currently being offered both remotely and in school; it has heartened and energised staff.

I am writing in response to the large numbers of parents currently requesting a place in school, due to their key worker status, during the current closure. **Numbers in school have increased six-fold compared to the numbers accessing a place under the same circumstances last year.**

We understand the pressure on some parents, from employers, to continue to go out to work despite the national lockdown and we know the difficulties of trying to juggle home working and home learning. **We are committed to offering a place to all those parents who really need us during this time; however, we all need to remember that school is closed due to a public health crisis.**

We are mindful of the scientific advice in relation to the new SARS-CoV-2 (COVID19) variant and its potential impact on school and community transmission. Whilst we have made school as safe as possible through a system of controls, it is accepted that the mixing, in schools, of children and adults and their respective households *does* increase the ability of the virus to spread (the 'R number'). The closure of schools contributed to the reduction in the 'R' number nationally during the first lockdown but less than 10% of pupils were attending. Many schools are reporting current attendance of above 30%.

The number of COVID19 patients is already much higher that it was at the peak of the first wave. Today a major incident has been declared in London as emergency services become overwhelmed. We need to avoid our own local services being put in that position. **The stay-at-home message is crucial to getting this variant and the resulting increased transmission under control.** As a school we need to play our part in that. **We have a civic and moral duty to help reduce the 'R' number nationally.** The advice given to us by our medical and scientific partners is to keep numbers of staff and children in school as small as possible. **We are asking you to work with us to make sure that parents who really need help with child care at this time can access it whilst helping us to keep numbers of adults and children in school to a minimum.**

The government continue to advise that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

We are asking that you only put your child in school when absolutely necessary. School should be a last resort. If you are a key worker working from home but can manage *some* child care we are asking that you do so.

If you do not need child care every day, we are asking you to let us know.

If we all do our bit, we can ensure that this latest lockdown is as short as possible and that we begin to win the race between vaccine and virus.



We look forward to the day when our whole school community can come together again and we can resume the way of working so familiar and important to us.

Warm regards,

Jane Booth
Federation Headteacher

Julie Sercombe
Chair Governors