



September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We really enjoyed being able to welcome the children back to school this morning. Please find below three further updates regarding:

- Pupil Wellbeing
- School Attendance
- Extremely Clinically Vulnerable Students

Wellbeing when returning to school

We understand that for some children this will be a worrying and anxious time so we will be spending time over the first 3 days to transition the children back into school. We have developed several programmes to support wellbeing and to help the children settle back into school routines.

We will focus on 3 R's of Reset; Recover; Rebuild and we have developed a 'Roadmap to Recovery' to help our children readjust smoothly and build positive mental health. We understand that every child's experience in lockdown has been different and we will respond to each child's individual needs.

Get tested to be certain

If your child is unwell and displays any of the symptoms of COVID-19 they should be tested immediately – for example if your child has a cough due to a cold you must still ensure they have been tested to rule out COVID-19; if your child has a temperature but you are sure it is due to a toothache – they must be tested to rule out COVID-19

School attendance

It is important to note that in March when the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak was increasing, the government made it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise the possible longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.

This means from the start of term in September, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, namely that parents have a duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly and schools have a duty to follow up absences which includes the issuing of sanctions, including fixed penalty notices.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will offer them access to remote education and their absence will not be penalised. We expect there to be very few children in this category.

All other pupils must attend school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance, etc).

Risk assessments for extremely clinically vulnerable students

Parents of students who fall under the above category will need to complete a risk assessment to ensure we are able to fully support their return.

We are using the current NHS guidance on the definition of those who fall into the high-risk category.

They are students who:

- have had an organ transplant
- are having chemotherapy or antibody treatment for cancer, including immunotherapy
- are having an intense course of radiotherapy (radical radiotherapy) for lung cancer
- are having targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system (such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors)
- have blood or bone marrow cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma)
- have had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the past 6 months, or are still taking immunosuppressant medicine
- have been told by a doctor they have a severe lung condition (such as cystic fibrosis or severe COPD)
- have a condition that means they have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID or sickle cell)
- are taking medicine that makes them much more likely to get infections (such as immunosuppressant medicine)
- have a serious heart condition

If a student falls into this category, they will have received a letter from the NHS. If your child is in this list please contact the school office so we can arrange to complete a risk assessment for them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Great Hollands Primary School