



7 July 2020

To: All Parents/Carers

Please take the time to read the information contained in this comprehensive end of term letter.

- School structure for 2020-21
- Class names from September 2020
- Reports for 2020
- Transition meetings for summer 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We are really looking forward to seeing all the children return to school full time in September as we take another step forward towards returning to normality. I want to reassure you that the whole school team are spending a considerable amount of time organising how we can make this a success.

Our aim is to ensure that our plans will be right for our local conditions at GHPS. We have been considering how we can continue to use the highly-effective methods we use to teach our curriculum we are so proud of, whilst minimising risks associated with Covid-19.

We know from the children who have returned to school this term that our systems have been effective, our pupils have adjusted well to the new rules and routines and we have been able to operate safely.

We understand that each individual child will have had a different learning experience during lockdown and we are drawing up plans to place all children in the correct classes / pods that will give them the best opportunity to catch-up with their learning.

### **School structure for September 2020**

To start in September, we will begin by welcoming children back into a group that will allow us to maximise learning opportunities whilst minimising movement and mixing in the school.

This year we have had some very small class sizes which is not a financially sustainable model for the school, so as we plan for 2020-21 we have reorganised our classes to ensure appropriately sized groups of around 30 pupils each. This is happening in Key Stage One (where groups will contain pupils from both Year 1 and 2) and in Upper Key Stage Two (where groups will contain pupils from both Years 5 and 6).

This is a common model in many primary schools and is just as effective as single year groups for supporting pupils to make good progress in their learning.

Our school structure from September will be as follows:

- 1 EYFS unit comprising of Reception and Nursery children with Mrs York as the EYFS leader
- 3 Key Stage One classes with Miss Estcourt as KS1 leader
- 2 Year Three classes and 2 Year Four classes with Mrs Watson as Lower KS2 leader
- 3 Upper Key Stage Two classes with Mrs Ajewole as Upper KS2 leader.

Your child will be in a class / pod with children from their phase of the school.

Phase 1 - Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) – Nursery and Reception

Phase 2 - Key Stage One (KS1) Years 1 and 2

Phase 3 - Lower Key Stage Two (LKS2) Years 3 and 4

Phase 4 - Upper Key stage Two (UKS2) Years 5 and 6

### **Year 1 and 2 Parents:**

Research has shown that reading, is the single most important factor in determining how well children succeed at school. Due to this we have taken the decision as a school to build Key Stage One classes around phonics groupings. This will enable us to continue to provide high quality phonics teaching while still staying safe in bubbles/pods. This will be the main factor when placing children which is different to previous years. As guidance and restrictions change we will continually review our provision to ensure it is offering the best for our pupils.

### **Year 3 Parents:**

Please note, if your child is going into Year 3, they are no longer entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals or free fruit at break time. Unless you are in receipt of Benefits Related Free School Meals, school dinners will need to be paid for. You will need to have credit on your online account and pre-order dinners for your child or you are welcome to provide a packed lunch - more details on ordering will come out from the catering company.

### **Class Names**

From September we will be introducing class names across the school in place of our current class codes system. Thank you for all your wonderful ideas for this project, links to animals was the clear winner so we have chosen this theme.

Here are our new class names:

Nursery	Mrs Parry	Caterpillars
Reception	Miss Kriketou	Butterflies
Key Stage 1 (Y1&2)	Miss Estcourt	Hedgehogs
	Mrs Andrew	Badgers
	Mrs Fifield	Foxes
Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3&4)	Mrs van der Rest	Kestrels
	Mrs Spiers	Eagles
	Miss Hawkins	Hawks
	Miss Baillie	Falcons
Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5&6)	Mrs Pesani	Tigers
	Mr Lee	Panthers
	Mrs Ajewole & Mr Phillips	Lions

Nursery	Caterpillars
Reception	Butterflies
Key Stage 1 (Y1&2)	Badgers / Foxes / Hedgehogs
Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3&4)	Kestrels / Eagles / Hawks / Falcons
Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5&6)	Lions / Tigers / Panthers

## Annual Reports

We will be writing to you again with more detailed information including your child's end of year report and information on their new class name and teacher from Friday 10 July. These will come out to you either through the post or hand-delivered so please keep an eye-out for them coming through your letter box.

## Transition Meetings – Meet your new teacher

Due to the disruption caused by Covid, children will not have their usual transition time with their new teacher. In order to support our children, we will be holding a Zoom meeting in the last week of term with new teachers. (For children in years R-3 their current teachers will also be there to add reassurance.) The children will be able to have an electronic look at their new classrooms and ask their new teachers any questions they may have about it. It would be helpful for all children to attend this meeting – please let us know beforehand if there are issues which would prevent this.

In addition, we will also create an information leaflet containing some of the key things the children will need to know and may be anxious about, such as; 'What does my classroom look like? Where do I put my coat?' etc. These will come out before the Zoom meeting so further questions can be discussed in the meeting.

The planned times for these Zoom transitions are:

Current Year Group	Date / Time	
Reception	Tuesday 14 July at 1.00pm	For transition to Years 1/2
Year 1	Wednesday 15 July 1KF at 1.30pm 1LH at 2.00pm	For transition to Years 1/2
Year 2	Wednesday 15 July 2VE at 10.00am 2VA at 10.30am	For transition to Year 3
Year 3	Thursday 16 July 3LS at 10.00am 3GR at 10.30am	For transition to Year 4
Year 4 and Year 5	Monday 13 July at 11.30am	For transition to Years 5/6 Pupils will join new teacher only in 5/6

## Getting back into routine in September

Once the children arrive in September, they will have many planned transition and wellbeing learning opportunities. The children will all be back and in their new classrooms, and will have plenty of opportunity to get to know their class routines, address any anxieties they may have and settle back into their great learning habits. In terms of learning, teachers will undertake activities to quickly work out what key learning they need in order to bridge any learning gaps that have appeared in lockdown.

## Goodbye to Miss Ward

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Ward for all she has done to support the children in the school as she is moving to take up a promotion as Deputy Headteacher of a large school in Slough. Miss Ward has been a driving force in redesigning our school curriculum over the past two years and she leaves us with a rich, well-sequenced curriculum that will ensure our pupils know more and remember more as they journey through the school. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Miss Ward all the best for the future.

**End of term**

Our last day of this school year is Friday 17 July. Our term dates are slightly different from some the Local Authority schools as we had more school days in the autumn term (which has worked out well for our children in light of the pandemic). I have also decided not to allocate the last inset day this year so we can remain open for longer. Please follow your normal allocated collection times for the last day of term. Our new term is currently planned to begin on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school via the usual routes.

I wish you and your families all the very best for the summer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Ferris". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Richard Ferris  
Headteacher