



31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had a chance to have a break this Christmas, whilst unable to meet family in the usual ways, I trust it has given you an opportunity to pause and reflect on what has been a bizarre 2020.

I know so many of our staff and wider school community were desperate for some time in which to rest and recharge their batteries which were running on empty for so many people.

I am writing to you to confirm that Great Hollands Primary School will be **open as planned on 4 January**. I have been waiting for the government to make a final decision before writing to you and they have now confirmed arrangements for the re-opening of primary schools as planned.

This is great news as we want our children to be at school, learning together to protect their futures, yet I know many of you will be concerned about the new variant spreading in the UK. So far, we have been very fortunate to keep our amazing school open throughout the entire Autumn term. Although much of this is due to good fortune, I do reflect on just how fantastic you have been as part of our school community to limit the spread locally. I know our COVID-SECURE measures at GHPS are amongst the very best I have seen, and I know the staffing team here continue to humble me with their dedication and efforts to support your children. However, I am worried, and **I need your continued support to help keep GHPS both safe and OPEN!**

Please keep following the Tier 4 rules and please **MAKE EVERY EFFORT** to **KEEP DISTANCED** on your way to and from school.

This new variant is 54% more contagious than the first and many adults will be spreading this without even knowing they have the virus. What matters now is that we keep our standards higher than ever.

From the start of the new term, I am asking that all parents / carers wear a face covering / mask when on or near the school site.

(Children do not need to do this)

We need to protect our children's education and the journey to and from school is the one time we are mixing in large numbers – YOU can do something to help here. Please use your best judgment to decide when masks should be worn, but I do know that the pavements surrounding the school are more congested than our playgrounds!

I know that our children should be okay if they catch the virus, but our staff have to work closely with the children, and we all need to take steps to protect them – not just for their own health but absent staff means no school for the children.

Since September we have had amongst the highest school attendance of any primary school, you have placed your trust in GHPS and together we have all worked incredibly hard to keep



everyone safe. Again, please let me thank you for what you have done so far - you have all been a real support to the school.

I wish you and your families a very happy new year and a brighter future in 2021

Yours sincerely



Richard Ferris
Headteacher



Please remember

- Do not come to site if you have symptoms - no matter how mild.
- Isolate your child and family if you are asked to do so.

Your daily routine to keep GHPS safe

- Wash hands before leaving home.
- **Adults, please pop on a mask when on or near the school.**
- Arrive at your allotted time, please don't arrive early - see below.
- Wait outside the school leaving space between families.
- Walk and wait distanced from other families on the playgrounds.
- Keep your children with you at all times.
- Be patient as we stagger the release of the children to avoid bunching.
- Always keep 2m+ from school staff.

These are the arrival times for year groups:

8.40 to 8.50: Years 1&2 and 5&6 and Nursery

8.50 to 9.00: Years 3&4 and Reception

These are the collection times for year groups:

Year 5&6: 3.00 – 3.05 pm

Year 3&4: 3.10 – 3.15 pm

Year 1&2: 3.00 – 3.05 pm

Reception: 3.10- 3.15 pm *

Nursery: 11.30-11.40 am

Please keep up your amazing efforts to keep us all safe and a HUGE thank you for all you have done so far.