



Together We Learn and Grow

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN IN NURSERY TO Y6

Dear parents and carers

I hope that you all managed a nice Christmas spent with the children and I would like to wish you all a happy new year and good health for 2021.

This was not the first letter I wanted to write to you for the new year however, there has once again been much speculation in the news over the past week with regards to schools remaining open. Yesterday the Council, in partnership with the Director of Public Health shared their current position with regards to school openings, **stating that they currently support the government position which is to keep Primary schools open.**

This is being kept under constant review and is a fast-changing situation as new data emerges, especially with regards to the new variant. There have been some changes in guidance over the Christmas break in respect of Clinically Extremely vulnerable staff and pupils and staff who are pregnant. We are also following guidance in light of Tier 4 restrictions. Our most up to date risk assessment remains on our website under the COVID-19 section.

In the short term we are ensuring we remain well prepared for any potential partial closure of schools as historically, we have learned that positions and announcements are often made with little notice or discussion with schools. To be clear, **this is preparation in case we close, not because we are closing.** If schools partially close they will remain open to a small number of children that fall into the category of vulnerable and / or critical key worker children. Education for the rest of the children will move online to Google Classroom. I am therefore surveying families to see who may be using this provision. **This is only an indication to help with our wider planning.**

Critical worker categories (taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> guidance document.)

Critical Workers: Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response



- **Health and social care workers** (doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, frontline health care workers, producers and distributors of medicines and PPE)
- **Education and childcare workers** (childcare staff; teachers and support staff; social workers; specialist education workers)
- **Key Public Service Workers** (those essential to the running of the justice system; religious staff; charity workers delivering frontline services; those responsible for management of the deceased; journalists and broadcasters)
- **Local and National Government workers** (administrative occupation linked to COVID-19 response; essential public services such as benefit payments, import and export)
- **Food and other necessary goods** (production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food and other key goods e.g. veterinary, hygiene etc.)
- **Public Safety and National Security** (police and support staff; armed forces; fire and rescue; National Crime Agency; border security, prison and probation staff)
- **Utilities, Communication and Financial services** (those who work in banks and building societies; Ministry of Defence workers; armed forces; oil, gas, water and electricity sectors; IT and data infrastructure sectors necessary to the COVID-19 response; key staff working in civil nuclear and chemical industry; telecommunications workers (field engineers, call centre staff, 999 and 111 staff); postal services and delivery services; payment providers; waste disposal workers)
- **Transport and Border** (air, water, road, rail passenger and freight workers)

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents are able to form a childcare bubble with one other household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under. Some households will also be able to benefit from being in a support bubble to support with childcare.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

The aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into schools to a minimum as this will reduce mixing and in turn reduce risks of transmitting the virus to the wider school community.



If you are an employee who falls into one of the above critical worker categories, please email urgently us at keyworkers@greatsankeyprimary.co.uk with the following information:

Your child's name:

Child's Class:

Your full name:

Relationship to child:

Your specific job and title:

Name of your employer:

Please also indicate if you intend to send your child into school in the event of any partial closure.

The information **must** be completed for **each** parent / carer who is a critical worker.

Please only complete this if you fall into the listed critical worker categories as set out by the government and your child will be attending school. This is important to allow us to quickly process all emails across all the children should we need to in the event of the Government position changing. Also, please do not panic as we understand people's circumstances many change and you may or may not require a place in the future.

To reiterate once again, this response is in preparation for any potential closure. We are currently reopening open to ALL children.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



V.J. Briggs
Executive Headteacher