



GIGGLESWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Headteacher: Miss Trudi Ward

A member of The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools – fostering a love for learning through collaboration.*

11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to begin this update with a heartfelt thank you for your support and patience over the past week. It was not the start to a new term we anticipated as we really miss having all the children in school and I am sad not to have met many of them! I will be setting up a Zoom story time this week so I can at least meet the children virtually – details to follow.

From my perspective, as your new Executive Headteacher, I have been bowled over by the hard work and professionalism our team of staff across the Federation have shown. Their dedication to providing quality learning for our children whilst responding to last minute DfE guidance deserves recognition. We know that we will not get everything right immediately and are working to reflect on and respond to the suggestions for improvement we have received.

To support your understanding of the current context across the Federation and within each school, I have pulled together some information based on the latest updates that I hope will be useful. As ever, should you need any support or clarification, just email your child's school or call the office and we will do our best to respond within working hours (8am – 5.30pm).

Critical workers and children who can access school settings

The DfE updated their guidance on critical key workers to include the following amendment:

Change made:

*Updated 'Critical workers' section to clarify that parents and carers who are critical workers **should keep their children at home if they can.***

Time updated:

5:26pm, 8 January 2021

We appreciate that it may be difficult, or in some cases impossible, for you to keep your children at home when you are a critical or key worker. We do request that your children stay safely at home with you if your working circumstances change or at times when you are not at work. We will continue to ask for evidence of your key worker status and shift patterns as our priority is to keep all children and our staff team safe. Please respect this request and keep your children at home if you can.

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Giggleswick and Hellifield Community and Long Preston Endowed (VA) Primary Schools.

Attendance at school

During this period of National Lockdown, children's attendance at school will continue to be monitored but parents will not be penalised for their child's absence during this period. If your child meets the criteria to be eligible for a place in school and you choose to keep them at home, there will be no penalty. We are advised strongly to encourage all identified vulnerable children to attend school.

As a reminder, the criteria are:

- At least one parent or carer is a critical worker, and they can't keep their child at home. [Critical workers are those whose work is critical to the coronavirus \(COVID19\) and EU transition response](#)
- They meet the definition for vulnerable children and young people.

If your child is unwell, they must not attend school. If your child tests positive for Covid then please let school know.

School opening and safety

Infection rates in Craven have recently rocketed and we do not wish our schools to become a vehicle for further transmission. Our current position is to close all schools on a Friday afternoon to allow for a thorough clean of learning spaces and resources used and to enable teachers to plan and prepare resources for the coming week. It also supports our staff team in minimising the contact they have across a week. This decision was not taken lightly and was not intended to cause difficulties with childcare for our critical key worker families. We greatly appreciate your support in this as we assimilate changing guidance and do what we can to keep our children and communities safe. We continue to reduce risk in our schools through the following measures:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who are required to stay at home do not attend the setting.
2. Where recommended, or required by regulations, use face coverings.
3. Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
4. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
5. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
6. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
7. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

The DfE guidance updated on 8 January 2021 states that schools should remain open and operate for their normal hours. I am working closely with our Board of Governors and staff to ensure that we can resume full provision as soon as it is safe to do so. I will let families know by Wednesday 13 January how this will work in each of our schools. Thank you for your patience as we readjust our plans in line with last minute guidance.

Remote learning

The DfE state that remote education should be equivalent in length to the teaching your child would normally get in school and should include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. It should be suitably tailored if your child has special educational needs or a disability. The amount of remote education should be a minimum of:

- Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day, on average across the cohort, **with less for younger children** (Reception children)
- Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day

This time includes regular reading, spelling, handwriting and maths skills practice.

Our teaching team are working together to create a blend of on and offline learning provision for each class in each school. If the number of emails received has been overwhelming, please pick and choose the activities your child can focus on and contact us directly for support with filtering learning priorities for your family. We will work to reduce the number of emails sent; this last week has been exceptional in that we were dealing with events as they unfolded! Paper packs for hands on learning are available from each school site. Please store your child's work as we will need this when we are able to reopen. We welcome photographs and emails about the progress your child is making and the activities they have enjoyed. The class emails have been set up for this purpose.

Online safety

Some of the learning activities planned include accessing websites online. It is important that all our children know how to keep themselves safe online and understand that they must let you know if they see anything that is upsetting or unusual. There are links to a range of good e-safety guidance on the DfE website which can be found [here](#).

As part of our online learning we will be linking weekly with the children using Zoom. This will allow us to catch up with each class and give the children an opportunity to see and listen to their friends and teacher. Pupils do not need a Zoom account to access these sessions. They will need adult support and a quiet place to sit where they are unlikely to be disturbed.

Teachers will send you an invitation to a Zoom meeting which contains a hyperlink, a password and meeting code. Please do not share this information with anyone else. If you are happy for your child to participate in our Zoom sessions, please email your class teacher in response to your Zoom invite to confirm this. Please have microphone settings on mute until the teacher asks for this to be removed. General rules about respecting others, dressing and speaking appropriately apply! We are hoping this will be successful and will appreciate your feedback. If you can't access the internet or have insufficient devices, please contact school and we will see what we can do to help.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to meeting you in person as soon as it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely

Miss Trudi Ward
Executive Headteacher

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