



Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a restful half term and that all is well with you and your families. As I am sure that you are aware, on Monday we received news from the Prime Minister as to how the country is to emerge from lockdown and I wanted to update you as to the implications for us at Garlinge.

I am very pleased to say that we will welcome all pupils back into school on Monday 8th March. The last couple of months have been difficult for everyone in so many ways, and whilst we are very proud of the efforts made with remote learning, it is clear that a safe school environment is the best place for pupils to continue to learn. We are aware that your children, whether at home or school for the last couple of months, would have missed some of their usual academic and social experiences and our staff will use the next couple of weeks to ensure that they are well catered for upon their return. Clearly pupils will continue their academic learning, but we will also give plenty of time for children to talk, socialise and just enjoy being back within a familiar environment amongst their friends. We will give final details of start and finish times etc in due course, but we will look to replicate a similar system to the September return, where classes will continue to work in their bubbles.

Safety will continue to be an absolute focus. Whilst we are pleased to see the progress that has occurred with the vaccination programme and the national and local fall in cases and hospitalisations, we will continue to work with our strict Risk Assessment, to maintain the safety of both pupils and staff. In line with government advice, we will continue to request that staff use face coverings in common areas around the school and also at drop off and collection points. Whilst these have become a very common feature in public over the past months, by all means share this with your child if you think that would be helpful. I can also confirm that a large majority of our staff have engaged with the twice weekly lateral flow testing that primary schools were offered, which further helps identify cases and reduce risk.

We are also hoping to offer both Breakfast Club and Teatime Club provision upon the 're-opening'. There is government guidance alongside this care, which states that it should only be used in certain circumstances and we will liaise with parents and carers to give more information should this care be needed. We would be very grateful if you could support us by limiting the use of these facilities, particularly in the early stages of the return, so that we can ensure it is fully staffed and offered to those who really need it.

If there are any further questions or concerns as to the return on the 8th March, please do get in touch, either with the class teacher if they relate to learning within the class, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, via the school office, if it is something else. We understand that this change can be either exciting, concerning or sometimes a combination of both, and we are here to try and make it as smooth as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Williams".

James Williams
Executive Headteacher