



Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all managed to have a peaceful Christmas break? The staff, governors and I would like to wish you a Happy New Year!

Given recent media coverage and much speculation about keeping all schools closed for at least another fortnight, I thought it appropriate to touch base with you to confirm that we will be open to pupils from tomorrow (Tues 5th January). In addition, we have had some correspondence from parents regarding the situation and, as I'm sure you can appreciate, it is not possible to respond to all of them on an individual basis at this current time, so this will hopefully address any queries you have.

Staff have been back in the building today, busily preparing for all pupils to return. We have revisited and reviewed our COVID-19 risk assessment and have all necessary measures in place and are continually following government guidelines and expectations. We were very fortunate before Christmas to have limited interruptions but would like to remind you that should we have to close class bubbles due to confirmed positive cases or a lack of staffing, then children will be provided with remote learning to carry out at home.

I would like to remind you of the guidance and measures (see separate document) that we have in place and politely ask you to adhere to these as we **all** have a collective responsibility to keep our whole school community safe. I particularly ask you to pay attention to drop off/collection section on the form and to abide to timings closely, I also urge you to follow social distancing advice on and around site. Please do not congregate on the playground or outside the school gates.

In preparation for any future lockdowns, it is likely that we will be required to remain open for only vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Therefore, if either parent is a critical worker (as defined in government guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>) please could you email notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk by 3pm on Tuesday 5th January 2021 stating the following:

- Name of child/children
- Year group/s
- State whether one or both parents are critical workers and what their role is
- State whether you intend to take up place if it is offered
- Please could you also attach proof of critical worker status

This email does not guarantee a school place, but would aid us greatly to begin the planning process

Obviously, government are talking as I type and this means there is the potential for change in the next 24-48 hours or even sooner; I will, of course, keep you informed of this ever-changing situation as quickly as possible.

I thank you for your support and understanding at these challenging and uncertain times.

We look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school in the morning.

Take care and stay safe
Best wishes

Ellie Ballinger
Headteacher