

# GIG MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Together we care, together we succeed*



18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Update for Parents - Gig Mill Primary School

From talking to many parents over the past few weeks it is clear that we have all been on an uncertain journey since lockdown began. It is fair to say that myself, and most school leaders were anticipating the return of all year groups to school before the end of term -17<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Regrettably as you will likely have seen in the news - this has not been the case nationally, and is not the case for us at Gig Mill.

Thank you to all our parents, carers, and our amazing children for all your support, patience and understanding in these challenging times. We have to follow a strict set of rules in order to be able to allow children into school and numerous risk assessments are in place. Now that there are only a few children allowed in each classroom, our capacity as a school is currently significantly reduced, and we have allocated the places that we physically have available.

The key worker children here for the past 12 weeks continue to be with us, and the number of allocated places are prioritised (as per government guidance.) The number of key worker children in school has now more than tripled, so we are using many more classrooms than first anticipated, and are now at capacity.

In line with Local Authority guidance it has been wonderful to welcome back some of our Year 6 children who were able to return in a safe and organised way to Gig Mill after weeks of planning. This week the same process has been followed in order to welcome back some pupils in Year 1, and today some of our Reception pupils were also welcomed back to school.

At each step, the process has had to be carefully managed to ensure the safety and well-being of all the pupils, parents, and staff. There continue to be many changes, both nationally and here in school.

Our staff and leaders continue to work really hard to make as many aspects of school as positive as possible for our children. The Home Learning resources on the school website have been carefully planned and designed to help and support each year group.

For those children who will not be back in school until September we have been thinking about ways of offering further and improved communication with you all. Whilst there is no intention for our teachers to be delivering live lessons, we know that the children are missing seeing and hearing their teachers (and vice versa) and we want to try and do something about this. From now until the end of term, you are likely to see a few changes and adaptations that will enhance our current practice to support children who remain at home. These will be in place from next Monday.

We will continue to keep you updated via text messages, this website and email. Please let us know if there have been any changes to phone numbers, or email addresses as this is the way we have been keeping in touch through teachers2parents. Should you need to contact school, where possible please use [info@gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk)

Whether your child remains at home and will be accessing home learning, or may have been in school accessing childcare for critical workers for the past 12 weeks, or has been allocated a school place for Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 we will continue to do our best to support you and your children. We do appreciate and welcome your constructive ideas and we have had some really lovely and touching messages from parents and carers which make a real difference to us all in school – **THANK YOU!**

Mrs A Hannaway  
Headteacher

Mr D Edgar  
Chair of Governors

Headteacher: Mrs A Hannaway

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