



## GIG MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Together we care, together we succeed*

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Dear Parents,

As you are already aware from the Dudley Local Authority letter; schools are scheduled to begin returning priority year groups to school (Y6, Y1,YR, YN) at the beginning of June and that this process may need to be staggered to ensure that pupils can return safely and that all guidance can be strictly followed.

In order for our pupils and staff to return to school in a safe and planned way, we have been preparing very carefully since the Government announcement on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Planning for a return includes many changes to some areas of the school building and classrooms, in order to accommodate the social distancing requirements and also to ensure that we are following all Government guidance. Risk assessments are updated with new guidance received daily, this is in addition to information that has already been received and acted upon.

From 23<sup>rd</sup> March until now, we have been open for childcare for the children of Key Workers. This will continue to be part of the provision we have in place even once priority year groups have returned to school. As I am sure you will understand, as more of our parents return to work, more of the Key Worker childcare places are needed and our allocation of places has quadrupled within the last few days alone. **With this very much in mind, the Governors and Leaders at Gig Mill Primary School have taken the decision to open only for childcare for the booked Key Workers group in the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June** and then begin a partial opening for Year 6 in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June. Pupils in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will re-join school over the following weeks and at each step, the process will need to be carefully managed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the pupils, parents and staff.

To begin with, many of our pupils are going to need reassurance that returning to school is safe and that they will be supported in following the new ways we will need to move around our buildings and interact with each other. Our classrooms will look quite different, with pupils' desks spaced out to ensure social distancing and around school similar floor markings will be in place to those that we have become used to in our local shops and supermarkets- and this is something that our youngest children in particular are going to find very different to the classroom they knew before.

Whilst we completely understand that many of our parents, have in the past, relied very much on having their children safely in school with us all day, every day- we are now in a very different world to the one before. Our main priority will continue to be the safety and wellbeing of your children and we hope you will understand that our decision to proceed with sensible caution towards the reopening of our school is the right one for your children and our pupils.

Mrs Hannaway  
Head Teacher

Mr Edgar  
Chair of Governors

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