

GIG MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together we care, together we succeed



9th September 2021

Welcome back!

We have had a super start back to school this September welcoming the children back in their new classes. Thank-you so much for getting them ready in smart uniforms and prepared for the new term. A sunny September start has been lovely, today's rain is a reminder that Autumn is approaching, and we would ask that children have a coat in school (unless we get another heatwave).

As part of the Gig Mill recovery curriculum we are continuing to prioritise wellbeing. We will continue with some outdoor lessons each week, and focus on the school values. Keeping safe and respect are two aspects we are looking at this week. Most of the routines are similar for the children, which has really helped with them settling into new classes, with some children in a different part of the school building.

From next week we will be restarting other routines:

Reading partnership Reading books will be going home each Monday for Years 1-6, and we would ask that these are returned each Thursday. We are continuing with Bug Club for accessing Reading remotely as last year.

PE days are here to stay ! Parents, staff and children loved PE days. As we are planning to return to some sports coaching, and swimming over the coming year there are some changes to PE days. The PE days below are for the Autumn term.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 2 <i>Reception</i> *	Year 5	Year 3 ASD Base <i>Nursery</i> *	Year 1 Year 4	Year 6

* *Staff will advise you when this will start*

Breaks and lunchtimes As I outlined in my end of term letter to you all, Gig Mill will continue with control measures for COVID within school as advised by Public Health, and children will remain in class groups for lessons. For breaks and lunchtimes however children can play with children in other classes in their year group outside, I know this is something many parents will welcome.

Remote learning This is available on the school website on a weekly basis for each year group as last year, for any child who is not currently in school if required.

Thanks We have been incredibly busy over the summer with building works. Last Tuesday we had no toilets or cubicles for new Reception pupils, on Thursday it was still a building site ! Huge thanks to the staff team for coming in early, staying late, and working at the weekend to ensure we were able to open to all children on Monday.

COVID update As you will be aware new rules are now in place. Whilst reporting is now officially with Track and Trace, school will still be supporting Public Health with this process. Please see the new guidance for parents (attached). If, as in the summer, there are multiple cases within a class group, it may be that the advice is that a class group isolates.

Thank-you for your support in making it a great start to term. We are really proud of all the children.

Headteacher: Mrs. A. Hannaway

The Broadway, Norton, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 3HL

Tel: 01384 818600 www.gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk

Some important information regarding Covid.

Following the latest change in government guidelines in August, we can begin to return to some kind of normality. This means that your child must attend school as normal unless they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or self-isolating.

However, some things will need to remain the same to avoid further spread of the virus:

- Your child should not come into school if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive.
- Practice good hygiene through frequent and thorough hand cleaning and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- We will continue to follow thorough cleaning regimes in our school.
- Rooms will be kept well ventilated.

What to do if your child has symptoms of COVID-19

1. Self-isolate immediately.
2. Book a PCR test for your child - <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119.
3. Follow Government guidance and instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
4. Contact school as normal to inform us of the absence.
5. Remote learning will be available on the website.

What to do if your child has wider symptoms

(Loss of Appetite, Extreme Tiredness, Headaches, Joint Pain or Muscle Ache, Nausea, Sore Throat, Sneezing, Diarrhoea* and/or vomiting** - must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to school- Runny Nose or Congestion)

- If your child has any of these wider symptoms (apart from diarrhoea* and vomiting**) they can carry on attending school if they are well enough to do so but we ask that you arrange a PCR test for your child.

(If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, they should not get tested for wider symptoms. However, they must self-isolate and seek a new test if they display any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms.)

- If the test result is positive your child must self-isolate for 10 days from their symptom onset date.
- If the test result is negative but your child then develops a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change of taste or sense of smell they must self-isolate and you must arrange another test for your child.

We will continue to monitor cases and put in place additional steps to mitigate against Covid 'ramping up and relaxing down' depending on the cases.

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