

16.6.20 – Head Teacher Update Garnetbank Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Parent Survey and Response**

I hope you are OK. The challenges continue and having spoken to some of you and received survey feedback, I know things are not easy for many of you. I understand that parents are worried about the long term impact on their children and that people face many uncertainties. Some parents feel strongly that children should be back in school full time as soon as possible, many are concerned about safety for their return and are anxious to send children back at all. For many parents, Google classrooms, twitter, the website, paper packs and calls have been helpful, for many the loss of face to face interaction has been really felt. Thank you to everyone for your views, comments and support. I can see how different the journey has been for everyone and with all the uncertainty of what next, it is hard for you as parents and hard for some of your children. You can still fill in the **parent survey**

**here:** <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKRNEavYEUmdEj7SVvuBFH0JUQUFSU1RZNIiKTkVNUktSMIRTSINFWjNBTC4u>

This is the most difficult time for education any of us have experienced. What I can say is we are trying our best and we genuinely care about you and your children. Our diverse staff team have also had individual journeys affected by: uncertainty, worry, bereavement, covid-19 illness, working and juggling children at home, doing everything differently than we have before and many other challenges. I want nothing more than our wee wonderful school to be back to normal with all children here and learning full time in a safe and nurturing environment. We all miss them and think about them all the time... as we said in our song/video to the children we posted last week. I look forward to the day all of team Garnetbank are together again. We will all continue to learn and do what we can as we continue on this journey together and I want to thank you all for your continued support and many kind words. **You can see our message here:** [https://youtu.be/1Kn\\_-Yw0R70](https://youtu.be/1Kn_-Yw0R70)

### **Grouping and teacher for August**

We have been working with our team round the clock to plan towards opening in August in line with national and local guidance, so our children's experience is as safe and as positive as possible. We want our children to experience effective learning and teaching, progressive experiences and an education which meets the children's wellbeing needs as well as their academic needs. Guidance may change by August, but for now, we still plan to have up to 12 children in most classes, as that is what we can fit with 2 metres.

We have had the exceptionally difficult task of splitting the school into Monday/ Tuesday and Thursday/Friday groups. I had been going to email you today what groups and which teacher was planned, however today our staffing situation has changed considerably with additional staff being provided, which is good news, but it changes things. This means we will have to go back to planning

again and I really hope to be able to give you more information towards the end of the week. This is our priority.

We await further information about childcare options which the authority will provide for days children are not in schools for those who need it.

### **Pupil Survey**

We are proud to be a Rights Respecting School and believe it is important to give children the opportunity to share and express their views and opinions. We have created a survey designed to help children share their feelings about returning to school in August and gives them a chance to share any questions or concerns they may have. Gathering the views of our pupils will help our whole staff team ensure everyone receives the support they need for a positive return to school.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKfMzT8bgnZ9Mk4LoHHvVA7hUQUJJM1Q0VE1aMDQzRTZXUFdVNUJYT0JHQy4u>

Kind wishes and thanks for your continued support,

Linda Reed

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