



GORSE RIDE SCHOOLS

Gorse Ride Infant & Nursery School / Gorse Ride Junior School
Executive Head Teacher : Miss Eileen Rogers

14th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and I am sure you have questions regarding the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening about the possibility of schools re-opening from the 1st June. We are still waiting for further guidance from Government and Local Authority, however we wanted to provide you with a framework on how we plan to re-open schools to Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6 whilst continuing to accommodate vulnerable children and children from Key Worker families in all year groups.

Please note this is subject to change in line with Government guidance and our schools' circumstance.

In order to allow you to make an informed decision I want to be open and honest with you so that you can understand what school may look like on re-opening and although we will try to reduce risks as far as possible we can not eliminate them entirely.

Social distancing in school with the youngest children will be extremely challenging. Children will naturally want to play and work alongside others after a period of time away from their friends. Young children do not stay in one place as they are continually exploring their environment.

The Government have provided guidance related to attendance once schools re-open:

- Attendance at school is optional - parents/carers will not be fined for non-attendance.
- Children who have medical conditions and are shielding should not attend school.
- Children who live with someone who is shielding (clinically extremely vulnerable and have received a letter from the Government) should not attend school.

To maintain social distancing and the recommended group numbers we will only be able to invite these year groups to attend for a limited number of days per week. We have been advised to group the children into "pods". Each pod will be assigned a room and either a teacher or a teaching assistant. Therefore, the children will not necessarily be taught by their current teaching staff or in their usual classroom. They will spend all their time in school with the same group of pupils to maintain social distancing.

There will be staggered start and finish times to the school day to ensure parental social distancing. Break times and lunchtimes will also be staggered and the children will remain in their "pod" groups. Lunch will be eaten in their classrooms or outside if weather permits.

Gorse Ride South | Finchampstead | Berkshire | RG40 4EH | RG40 4JJ

www.gorserideschools.co.uk/schools/GorseRideSchools tel : 0118 973 4880 (Infants) | 0118 973 2666 (Juniors)
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For our Reception and Nursery children, they too will work in “pods” as mentioned above and their day structured to reduce contact between the children, as much as is feasibly possible with children of this age. Staff will follow the social distancing guidance and we will encourage the children to follow the same rules as much as possible but as you are aware with such young children it will be difficult to control at all times especially with regards to peer to peer interactions.

In addition, we will be adhering to stringent hygiene guidance around hand washing and cleaning of resources and areas within school.

I would like to reassure parents and carers that your children’s health and mental wellbeing are our first priority and our planning is based on this. Staff will follow Government guidelines whilst doing our very best to ensure your child feels safe and enjoys their time in school in these unusual circumstances.

In the current situation parents have the right to choose whether to send their child into school or keep them at home. We will continue to provide home learning for those who do not to attend. If parents, choose this option there will be no fines for non-attendance.

I would ask you to please complete this short on-line survey to help us plan staffing and equip us with any relevant information that will help us to best support your child if we are given the go ahead to open from 1st June.

Please click on the link to complete the survey no later than Monday 18th May 2020.

<https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/oCsVpi>

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you and your families stay safe and we look forward to welcoming the children back in the near future.

Yours

Eileen Rogers
Executive Head Teacher

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