

School re-opening in January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and that work has continued over the Christmas holiday period. I would like to thank our incredible staff for their commitment and professionalism, which has seen many working over the holidays.

My letter today includes important information relating to when your child will return to school at the start of this coming term.

Following the Government announcement, whilst most primary schools will re-open as planned from Monday 4th January 2021, Medway has been identified as an area with continued high rates of Covid-19 and therefore we **are required to remain closed to vast majority of children.**

This means that at Gordon:

- If your child is classed as vulnerable or if you or your partner is a critical worker, then your child will return to school on Tuesday 5th January
 - **As previously planned, Gordon will be closed on Monday 4th January to undertake a Staff Development Day, therefore the first day term is on Tuesday 5th January.**
- If your child is **not** classed as vulnerable and you are **not** a critical worker, then your child will **not** return to school until at least **Monday 18th January** in line with the Government Guidance. This is under continual review and I will of course let you know as soon as the Government decides that the school can re-open to all children.
 - **For children who are unable to learn in school during this period of time, we will provide remote learning via Teams, Seesaw/Tapestry from Tuesday 5th January - further information will be sent to parents on Monday 4th January, however it will be very similar to the previous provision we have had in place.**

VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION

I appreciate that for many parents, the closure of Gordon will cause further disruption. We are committed to supporting our most vulnerable children and those children of critical workers.

Vulnerable children include those who:

- are assessed as any child with a social worker including children who are Looked After
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

- other children who have been identified as otherwise vulnerable and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance - this group will be contacted by the school on Monday or by Social Care in the near future.

CRITICAL WORKERS

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you **cannot** keep your child safe at home, then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

- Health and social care
- Education or childcare
- Key public services
- Local or National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

If you wish to use this provision, please complete the below form in advance and email it to office@gordonchildrensacademy.org.uk by **12:00pm on Monday 4th January**.

You must give the school 24 hours' notice that you need to use this provision so that we can provide appropriate staffing. Children arriving without giving 24 hours' notice may be turned away if we do not have adequate staffing.

Please be aware that during this period of partial closure, provision for this group of children will be slightly different from their usual lessons. This group of children will be required to form a new independent bubble that will contain only these children; this is to reduce risk and prevent any unnecessary mixing with other bubbles. Therefore, children in this group from Reception to Year 6, will form one bubble. Parents should also be aware that we will endeavour to provide the same remote learning offer as to those children at home, however this may not be possible for every lesson.

Breakfast Club will be available for critical workers and vulnerable children only during this time - usual opening hours and arrangements apply.

As before, a great deal of planning and risk assessment has gone into ensuring that our school continues to be as safe as possible during these challenging times, in line with latest Government and Public Health England guidance. We will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our children, working with you and keeping you informed every step of the way.

You may also have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms will be conducted in some schools this term. However, this relates only to secondary schools and therefore we are unaffected.



I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear but if you have any questions, please do email these to office@gordonchildrensacademy.org.uk

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy New Year. Please do continue to take care and stay safe and follow the Government expectations.

Thank you for support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Murphy
Executive Headteacher



Am I a 'critical worker' to the COVID-19 response?

[Click here for current list](#)

YES

NO

Are both parents/carers
'critical workers' to the
COVID-19 response?

Keep your child at
home.

They will be able to
access learning from
home.

YES

NO

Are you able to keep your child safe at
home?
i.e. That at least one parent/carer is
working from home

Please keep your child at
home.

They will be able to access
learning from home.

YES

NO

WE CAN PROVIDE CARE FOR YOUR CHILD

We will need to establish:

- Proof of critical worker status (pay slip, letter from employer, Photo ID etc.)
- Parent/Carer permission via completion of the enrolment form

Supervision for eligible children at school

Name of child:	Year group:	Class:
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Reason for eligibility:

Key worker? Yes / No	If yes – what is your role?	Please tick to confirm that you have attached evidence of role – please see below for guidance.
Vulnerable student? Yes / No	The school will already have the evidence of this	

Days you would like your child to be supervised – **please indicate the days that you require**

	Tues 5 th	Weds 6 th	Thurs 7 th	Friday 8 th
Mon 11 th	Tues 12 th	Weds 13 th	Thurs 14 th	Friday 15 th

Please provide details of collection/home-time arrangements for the end of the day. My child will:	
Be collected	Walk home
If your child is being collected please provide full names and contact information of the person/s allocated to collect your child	
Full name:	Contact number:

We would like children who are attending school from Tuesday 5th January onwards to do the following:

- Arrive at school entrance in Gordon Road between 08:45 and 09:00 - a member of staff will be there to meet you.
- Be picked up between 15:15 and 15:30 from the main playground - unless they are walking home.
- Maintain the school's behaviour policy.
- Wear normal school uniform.
- Complete the work set by the school so that they can continue their learning during this time.

If numbers wanting to access the critical worker/vulnerable student bubble are higher than staffing allows, vulnerable students will be prioritised.

I understand that:

- If anyone in my household exhibits symptoms of Coronavirus my child will not attend school for 10 days from the point that the symptoms started. I will notify the school.
- If my child exhibits any symptoms of the Coronavirus, they will not attend school for 10 days from the date of symptom onset and until they are better and no longer have any symptoms. I will notify the school.
- If my child exhibits any symptoms of the Coronavirus whilst in childcare they will be isolated and I will be asked to pick them up immediately. The school will advise me of the self-isolation timeline.
- If a child in the key worker bubble tests positive for Coronavirus, the school will carry out track and trace and notify parents if their child needs to be collected to self-isolate

Please sign below to confirm that you have read and understood this letter and the expectations for students attending for supervision:

Parent name	Parent signature	Date

Evidence of role should include one of the following:

- Signed letter from employer stating that you work in the services listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>
- Pay slip, letter from employer, Photo ID

A photograph or scanned copy of evidence will be needed, even if you have provided this previously, as we do not hold data unnecessarily.

A member of the admin team will be in touch on the afternoon of Monday 4th January to confirm your child's place and any further additional arrangements that you may need to be aware of.