

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PARENTS / CARERS FROM THE GREENFIELDS GOVERNING BOARD**

Dear parents / carers,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Greenfields' Governing Board concerning the reopening of the school for the children on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Board believes the school is properly prepared for the resumption of all its classes and that appropriate risk reduction measures for the management of Covid-19 will be in place. These measures are in alignment with those recommended by the government, the local authority and the school's own risk assessment. Mrs Day has already communicated to you how the school will operate and of course we require you to follow the procedures to help ensure everyone's safety.

We are fortunate to have a school whose layout and large outdoor spaces facilitate keeping our class bubbles separated. Our classrooms all have immediate access to the outside and have their own toilets. We have no communal entrances, pupil toilets or stairways to manage, and our large dining room and assembly hall will enable lunches to be suitably taken. You have a role to play too in keeping us all safe by ensuring that you do not enter the school building, especially at busy times such as drop off and collection, and dropping older pupils at the school gates and not coming onto the school grounds if possible.

You are probably aware that data collected from primary school settings around the world indicate that pupils are extremely unlikely to fall seriously ill with the coronavirus and appear to have limited propensity for infecting others. Indeed, the likelihood of your child requiring hospitalisation from Covid-19 is much less than that caused by a road traffic accident. Similarly, the threat of measles for non-vaccinated children is significantly greater than that of Covid-19.

The government has made it clear that all children must attend school from September. This is a legal requirement. The school must record pupil attendance as per usual and take appropriate action for non-attendance where there is no valid reason for absence. Whilst you are of course entitled to hold your own opinion about this pandemic and its management, you are not permitted to translate this view into keeping your children away from school, unless you have been instructed by the relevant authorities to self-isolate.

We believe Greenfields is a wonderful school in which the staff always put the safety and welfare of the children first; the staff are really looking forward to your children returning. We feel sure all the children will enjoy seeing and playing with their friends again, resuming their learning and having some normality and routine restored to their lives during this extraordinary time.

If you have specific concerns you would like to discuss then please contact Mrs Day or myself as appropriate via the school office. Alternatively, I will be at the school on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

David Ray, Chair of Governors