

Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Ecclesall Primary School children,

I am writing to inform you about the latest situation at Ecclesall Primary School. Attached is also the latest statement from Greg Fell, Public Health England and the latest letter from Councillor Mohammed for your information.

We now have 202 key worker/vulnerable children allocated a place at Ecclesall Primary School from Monday 15th June.

We will have 17 bubbles (so an increase of 2 more bubbles) with 34 teachers and teaching assistants. One will be a new Y3 bubble with Mrs Chester and Mrs Biggs and an additional adult, Miss Wymer and the other will be a new Y6 bubble with Mrs Pegg and an additional adult, Miss Lane. If we have allocated a place for your child, you will receive a text this week with the colour bubble and a letter via email explaining all the arrangements and where to bring your child from next Monday 15th June. We are unable to offer any more key worker places for week commencing Monday 15th June in addition to the ones already allocated for next week.

As you are already aware, our provision at school continues to **prioritise our key workers and vulnerable children**. We are currently looking at possibilities of whether we can move to Stage 2 and increase our provision slightly with more Y6 children. We will inform you of any more decisions regarding this from the middle of next week.

It is looking highly unlikely that any other year group will be able to return before the summer holiday due to our staffing capacity and the space available, unfortunately. Please see the Update letter dated 22.5.20 where we explained previously the stages of priority.

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Update-Letter-22.5.20-1.pdf>

We are acutely aware of the need to get children back to school as soon as possible and the fact that whilst some children are coping well with the current situation, some are finding it extremely difficult. We are also very aware of the pressure that is building on working parents who are negotiating the minefield of childcare, as they need to return to work and who have been and continue to be home educators. A number of our own staff are in exactly the same position – balancing work and home educating and we know that it is an understatement to say that this is not easy. Parents facing financial difficulty is also a huge concern and we know how important a place in school is for some of you.

If you have not watched my Head Teacher video that was emailed to all parents and carers at the weekend, please copy and paste this link as I explain this in much more detail on the video. (Also found on EPS website under Covid section). Thanks very much.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oR1KQVoeZPBYUZMlpRPw5zX-aCSEfbr1/view>

We are continuing to prioritise maintaining our home distance learning provision too for the many children who will continue to be home schooled by their families leading up to the summer holidays. As explained on my video, we are unable to do any live recordings because the vast majority of our staff are in a “bubble” all day and for safeguarding reasons. We will continue to do teacher/teaching assistants pre-recorded videos and the links for these will be put on the home distance learning plans for each year group each week. You may like to access other year group videos. Please go to the Curriculum section of the EPS website and click on any year group. All home learning since lockdown began is on here and your child might enjoy seeing other teachers from across the school too. <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/curriculum-2/>

Our last letter was to the vast majority of our children, parents and carers who continue to be home schooled :

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Home-learning-letter-June-2020.pdf>

and a very useful Emotional Well-being home learning pack for both home schooled children and present key worker/vulnerable children who are attending our school:

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Emotional-Wellbeing-Home-Learning-Pack.pdf>. These can all be found on our EPS website under the Covid section.

Please remember that if you have concerns about your child then contact your child’s class teacher through the year group email. They will either contact you via phone or email as soon as they are able to.

We apologise for the fact that we cannot do more to support you, especially around increasing our provision further and having more of the children back at school. We all want to see all of the children back in school to continue their education and support their well-being but safety for everyone involved does come first and we must continue to follow the Government guidance and instructions that we receive.

I hope that this has explained some of the decisions that we have made and the reason behind the organisation in school.

I would like to say an enormous thank you for the amazing support and positive messages that we have received and your appreciation of what the school has done, so far. I would also like to say thank you for your amazing patience with and tolerance of all of the changes in our plans.

Kind Regards

Emma Hardy

Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School

Nicole Ramsey

Deputy Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School

Guy Willatt

Deputy Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School