

## Head Teacher's Message

As you know, the Prime Minister announced the possibility of a partial re-opening of schools from (not 'on') June 1<sup>st</sup>. I wanted to explain what is happening at Godwin so that you are fully informed.

For obvious reasons, this announcement has necessitated a lot of preparatory work by all schools to assess potential risks and then put in place measures to attempt to reduce these. There has been new guidance almost every day which we have had to read and then incorporate into our plans.

Social distancing guidelines mean that the maximum number of children we can accommodate in each classroom is between 9 and 11, depending on the individual room. Clearly, as we usually have 30 children in a class, this means that there must be a lot of re-organisation in order to make any plan to re-open. Unless the government decides to relax the 2m distance rule it is highly unlikely that we will be able to re-open to all year groups in the current climate as we simply do not have the physical space to do so. We, like you, await further guidance from the government about this situation.

When considering re-opening we also have to ensure that we have sufficient teachers and TAs. Obviously each group of children needs to be led by an adult. The much smaller group sizes, alongside the fact that some staff must work from home as they are shielding for health reasons, mean that we have to plan carefully how many children we can safely re-open for.

We will be re-opening only to the **children of key workers** on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. I have emailed a letter with details about this to all key workers who have requested places for their children. If you have not received this please email the school: [info@godwin.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@godwin.newham.sch.uk).

We will be re-opening to children classed as '**vulnerable**' on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. We have spoken with all of these parents/carers about this.

We have contacted all Year 6 parents/carers to establish whether they plan to send their child back to school if and when we re-open. On Monday we will begin 'phoning those families we have not yet had an answer from. When we have a clear picture of pupil numbers we will be in a position to make a definite decision about whether and when we are able to re-open to our Y6.

I appreciate that the decision about whether to send your child back to school is not an easy one to make - the impact of Coronavirus has been felt disproportionately by members of the BAME community and you may well have people in your household who are at a higher risk due to age or underlying health conditions. **I want to reassure all parents/carers that the decision about whether to send your child back to school is yours** – the Mayor has been very clear that fines will not be issued to parents/carers of children who do not attend schools when they re-open.

This is a rapidly changing situation and as we receive new information we will keep you informed about what is happening at Godwin. Thank you for your continued support and understanding throughout the school being closed to your children. We hope to be able to see you all in the not-too-distant future.