



GORSE COVERT PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Gorse Covert Road, Birchwood,  
Warrington, WA3 6TS  
Headteacher: Mrs. C Cooke



### **School update**

Dear Parents

I am delighted to say that all our staff are currently fit and well! I hope you are all too.

#### **Reopening Plan**

As you are aware, schools have only been open for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable pupils during weekdays, including holiday periods and bank holidays. The government is now asking schools and childcare settings to plan for a gradual further opening for more children to return to school.

The government has prioritised Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. They have made it clear that the gradual opening of schools will only take place providing their 5 key tests justify the changes at the time. Warrington Local Authority (LA) has decided that our schools will only open from 8th June at the earliest and that it will be a gradual return.

I have been working very closely with the LA and other headteachers to ensure we are able to provide as safe an environment as possible for more children to return. Parents of children in YR, Y1 and Y6 will receive a letter on Thursday morning via email, outlining the details around this plan and how to let us know if you intend to send in your child.

For children in Y2, 3, 4 and 5, we will continue to offer home learning opportunities as we are now. It is hoped that if risk assessment allows, we will be able to offer at least some opportunity for children in these year groups to return before the end of the summer term. I will let you know of those plans in due course.

Children of critical workers will still be able to attend school as they do now, on days where there is nobody else at home to look after your child. It has been a privilege to support these parents and children in what has no doubt been a very challenging and busy time for them in responding to the national health crisis.

#### **Mental health**

It is Mental Health Awareness Week this week and never has there been a greater time to ensure we are looking after ourselves. The first few weeks of lockdown might have been quite positive for you, but for some it is becoming more and more challenging and beginning to take its toll. From talking to some parents this week, it is becoming clear that many of you are finding it difficult, whether it is trying to manage home learning, increased anxiety or simply wanting things to go back to normal. Whilst we can not wave a magic wand, we are here to support you and your child. If a phone call, or even a visit at the bottom of the drive, from a member of staff would help, please do let us know. We are happy to organise what we can.

#### **Half term holiday**

Monday 25th May is not only a bank holiday but the start of the school half term break. There will be no home learning set for the 2 week period and will begin again on Monday 8th June.

#### **Communication**



The phone lines in school are not regularly manned. If you need to get in touch with school then either use the Google Classroom or contact our Facebook page if you need to communicate more privately with me or another senior leader. For those that don't have Facebook, I can be contacted through [keyworkerbookings@gorsecovertsch.co.uk](mailto:keyworkerbookings@gorsecovertsch.co.uk). Please do let me know if there is anything we can do to help as I'm sure this is a very difficult time for many of you. We can source support in the local community, provide advice and support for mental health problems and arrange food donations if you are struggling financially. We are here to help wherever we can.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

C Cooke  
Headteacher

