



# Sutton Oak Church of England Primary School

Goodban Street, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3QD

Headteacher: Mr I Williams | Assistant Headteachers: Mrs L Lewis & Mrs S Green

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## Dear Parents/Carers of children in Nursery

As you are very aware, in an attempt to control the spread of the virus across the country, the Prime Minister declared a national lockdown on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Schools once again found themselves in an unprecedented situation and were asked to stay open to educate the children of critical workers and those who are vulnerable and this included Nursery provision.

The Government guidance has subsequently changed, and this is the reason why you are receiving this letter today. We are being forced to look at a wider opening of Nursery provision as the government will not fund Nursery places if we do not.

**I must stress that this goes against our Governing body decision and the current risk assessment for our site.**

Currently there are extremely high risk levels. Schools/Nurseries in St Helens have only been back 10 days and 12 Nurseries/EYFS settings have had to close due to Covid-19 infection of pupils and staff. The new variant of Covid-19 is up to 70% more transmissible and we do not believe it is safe to fully open to large numbers of children and parents. Schools and Nurseries are being identified as infection vectors (somewhere the virus can be more easily spread back to households) therefore, the safest place for your child and your family is at home. For this reason, we are appealing to parents/carers to only take up a place at Nursery if it is **absolutely essential**.

To comply and be open for funding we are looking at a wider opening of Nursery provision from **Monday January 25th 2021** and this decision will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*** -If **you** choose to keep your child safe at home, we will still get the funding.

Please let us know if you would like us to consider your child for a place and we will reply as soon as possible if you have been allocated one.

There is no need to let us know if you are choosing to keep your child at home. Currently we believe the safest place for your child and your family is at home. With infection rates as high as they are now, it is vital that we work together to keep the number of children in Nursery at a minimum, in order to keep staff and those children in attendance as safe as possible.

This situation is not ideal. Education is at the heart of what we do, and we cannot wait to have everyone back in Nursery and school again. But, until the situation improves, safety becomes the most paramount issue.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as together we can help to get things back to normal and keep everyone safe.

Yours faithfully

Iwan Williams

Headteacher





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