

Grove Road Community Primary School



Grove Road School is enhanced to support children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs

Grove Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 5EP
admin@groveroad.n-yorks.sch.uk

Tel: 01423 506060
Fax: 01423 531426
www.groveroad.n-yorks.sch.uk



Headteacher
Mr C.J Parkhouse

Covid-19 Update and Wider School Opening

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank you again for your patience and understanding whilst I work with the Governing Body, the Local Authority and our staff to establish a safe, comprehensive and appropriate plan for our school community.

I would also like to thank those of you who have been able to complete the survey we sent out last Friday via parentmail. We have had a great response which has enabled us to understand the community feeling and begin planning for our next steps.

As I explained in my last letter, the Government proposal to substantially expand the opening of school on June 1st is conditional on the Government's 5 tests being met. I have been informed that they will announce the national position on Thursday 28th May. We simply cannot wait until then to plan effectively. As such, we are working on a comprehensive risk assessment to establish what we believe we can offer in June which will be shared with you on our school website.

As the Headteacher of our wonderful school, I have an overall responsibility for the children, staff and our collective families across the community – a duty and responsibility for the health, safety and well-being of potentially thousands of people. I will always act with integrity to protect what I believe is in the best interests of safety for our children and Team GR collectively and I would never take this responsibility lightly. Indeed, I think it is the most important decision I have ever had to make.

When there is so much conflicting advice, guidance and opinion in regards to schools re-opening, I believe the most sensible thing I can do is to take the appropriate amount of time to ensure we have a carefully considered, measured and balanced view to assess what is safe for our school and for our community. That must be based on a principle of care and caution for all. It is not about setting a date, it is about when we can feel wholly confident that what we are offering is as safe as possible for everyone and enables us to offer a positive, rich and worthwhile educational and pastoral experience.

Grove Road Community Primary School



That is why I am asking for your support to allow us the time to carefully frame what we think is a **safe, sensible and staged approach** acting in the best interests of our children and families. It is, therefore, our plan as the first part of this staged approach to initially:

- **Continue to offer our support in school to children of key workers and families who need to continue or return to work (with no other suitable childcare arrangements available) alongside vulnerable children.** We are expecting this number to increase significantly in June and we will be sending booking forms to carefully plan provision.
- We then hope to offer our support for very small groups of **Y6** children. This would most likely require strict social distancing and a significantly different approach for teaching and learning. This will only be offered if/when we have full confidence to do so.
- Offering support for more children from **Nursery, Reception and Year 1** will be heavily dependent on the risk assessment with a specific focus on social distancing measures, staff safety and the scientific evidence on transmission rates between children and adults.
- We will respect the individual decisions of our families for whatever they feel is safe or unsafe for their children.
- No families will be challenged for non-attendance.
- We will continue to offer online/home learning support for all year groups via Seesaw and our YouTube channel.

I am exceptionally proud of the staff of Grove Road and how they have worked tirelessly to support children in school and via online/home learning. We have accepted the potential health risks by supporting children in school because we believe we are making a difference to save lives during this pandemic. I am equally proud of the immense sense of community spirit that has emerged from this difficult time that we are all going through. Our children have been incredible and are an absolute credit to you all. I also want to thank you for how you have all supported each other as part of Team GR.

As a father of two young children and a teenager; as a husband to someone working for the NHS and as a leader for our community, it is important to me that you know I will be unwavering in my commitment to make the right decisions for us all. To that end, I will not be pressured or rushed into making rash decisions that could have unthinkable consequences. We are one big family and we need to look after each other – now and always.

If you have any worries or concerns about re-opening or anything at all that I might be able to help with please call school and I will contact you directly, as soon as possible, or alternatively email me via headteacher@groveroad.n-yorks.sch.uk

Take care and stay safe.

Chris Parkhouse
Headteacher