



Grove Vale Primary School

Head Teacher - Mrs A J Connop

Deputy Head Teacher - Mrs M Bunch

Assistant Head - Mrs S Pickett

Business Manager - Mr D Thorpe

School Web Address: www.grovevaleprimary.co.uk

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents,

School returning on March 8th

The government has reissued advice and guidance on the return of all pupils from Monday 8th March. The guidance consists of two main approaches:-

- 1. Contact between children should be minimised throughout the school day.**
- 2. Hygiene measures for the children and the environment that prevent the spread of the virus.**

Our school will operate in such a way that they are able to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. Schools have been asked to do what is reasonably practical to allow for the continued education of the children whilst at the same time minimising the risk to the children and adults in school through the use of limiting social contact and good hygiene.

Grove Vale will be welcoming back all children as normal on Monday 8th March including before and after school club provision and we look forward to the children's return. The government has said that attendance for children will revert to being compulsory as it was before the lockdown.

To minimise contact between children, we will operate in class bubbles during the school day and year groups for wraparound care. This will allow us to operate a full academic timetable and put in the support and interventions that are necessary. Guidance is that adults are no longer limited to one class or bubble so we are able to provide interventions, specialist teaching including music lessons and PPA cover for staff.

In order to minimise the contact between year groups, it will be necessary to have staggered drop off and collection times and different timetabling for break times and dinner times. The most likely times for the potential mixing of year groups and bubbles is drop off and collection due to the number of people arriving and waiting on site. We are not allowed to

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hold whole school assemblies and classes will have to have separate playtimes and play areas until Easter. All plans will be reviewed before the Summer term commences.

To support with the minimisation of risk please note the following rules/routines:-

Children will have staggered drop off and collection times (apart from pre-school as times remain the same). There will be a one-way system in operation for entry and exit to the site in the Infant playground that must be observed to protect all concerned.

Drop offs

- Reception and KS1 pupils will still have a soft start in the am and should arrive between 8.40-8.50am
- KS2 pupils will still have a soft start in the am and should arrive between 8.35-8.45am.

Collection time

- Reception collection times are 3.20pm in the Infant playground
- Year 1 collection time 3.25pm in the Infant playground
- Year 2 collection time 3.30pm in the Infant playground
- Collection times are from 3.35pm for Year 3, 3.30pm Year 4, 3.25pm Year 5 and 3.20pm Year 6.

We are hopeful we can change the times before Easter and all collection times will be regularly reviewed.

When dropping off and collecting your child:-

- Reception, year 1 and year 2 will be dropped off in the Infant playground and will exit via the Reception gate.
- Year 3-6 will be dropped off at the bottom of the stairs and walk up to the classrooms

Expectations in school

- There will be no opportunity for contact between parents and teachers at the beginning and end of day and any need for communication will be via the contact page on the website.
- Visitors to the site are being restricted so no early collection or late drop off of children can take place unless it is an emergency/pre-arranges with school.

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- Children will need to wear uniform as normal. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit on their PE day and on a Friday. Children will be taking part in PE and we have prioritised outdoor PE learning experiences in the first instance.
- We hope swimming will recommence after Easter once all risk assessments and safety procedures have been followed. Our aim is to start swimming week beginning 19.4 for Year 4, Years 5 and 6 and after May half term for all other year groups. School will strictly adhere to all guidance.
- Children will continue to be encouraged to have their own pencils and stationery. School will provide children with their own stationary pack.
- Lunches will operate as normal – children in reception, year 1 and year 2 will receive a free school meal and all others can purchase as normal or bring sandwiches. Hot lunches will be provided as normal in the school hall. Classes have allocated times slots and a dedicated outdoor area to play within their year group.
- Outdoor fixed equipment will not be used until after Easter.
- A strong emphasis on hygiene will continue to be actively promoted in school with handwashing being a priority throughout the day.
- Regular cleaning will take place throughout the school day
- If families have no option other than to use public transport, we are encouraging your family to wear a face covering.
- Please be respectful of social distancing with others in our playgrounds and on the pavements outside of school when you are dropping off/collecting your child.
- Please leave the school site as quickly as possible once you have collected your children

Extra safety measures

- Up to one third of people with coronavirus show no signs of having it – they are asymptomatic. They can, however, still spread the virus if they have it. I am therefore delighted that staff at Grove Vale are now able to take two ‘lateral flow tests’ every week so that any asymptomatic staff cases can be identified and isolated – an extra measure to continue to keep everyone as safe as possible in school.
- We are asking for all parents and carers to wear face coverings whenever they are on the school site. Face coverings help to protect other people and reduce the chance of transmission, even in outdoor spaces. Please support us by wearing a face covering at all times. Senior staff will be challenging any adults not wearing face coverings on site (if you are exempt please let us know so that we are aware.)

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Before and after school club

Before and After school club will be operating before and after school wraparound care and the children will be kept in their year groups during this time. If you require a place, please contact the school office.

Training day

Our planned training day on Thursday 1st April is still going ahead. School is closed for all learners

Bubble closures

Please be aware that, as before, the children will still be working in class bubbles. If there is a positive staff or child coronavirus case, we will have to close their bubble and ask all contacts to isolate for 10 days from their last contact.

Attendance

A CHILD MUST NOT BE SENT TO SCHOOL SHOULD THEY BE DISPLAYING ANY OF THE CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS

- Persistent cough
- Raised temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

WHERE A CHILD DISPLAYS SYMPTOMS IN SCHOOL, PARENTS WILL BE CONTACTED AND ASKED TO COLLECT THEIR CHILD. You should then arrange for your child to be tested.

- Should any member of the group be diagnosed with the virus, all members of the group will be sent home and asked to isolate for 10 days.

Changes to our routines and procedures have been highly effective during the Autumn term and I would like to thank all those parents and staff who have helped the routines work so well. It has been a very challenging task but we have pulled together positively as a community. We will review the measures above on a regular basis to ensure that children and adults on site are kept as safe as possible. Please be aware that further changes may be necessary, we appreciate your support.

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Where parents and children adhere to their times and stick to the guidance above then this will help support social distancing, minimise opportunities for people mixing without affecting the learning time available. If you have any issues with picking up siblings at the same time, please contact the school so we can support you and your family.

Finally, thank you for your support over the past few weeks and of course for the support that you have given to your children with their remote learning. I know it has been an extremely challenging time for everyone – hopefully it will be last time we will be required to lockdown and, in the not too distant future, we will be able to return to some more ‘normality’ in our lives. Please note our risk assessment for reopening is on our school website.

We will write to you with regards to Easter activities in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Connop
Headteacher



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