



Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds everyone safe and that your week is going well.

The whole team are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 8th March.

As explained in the letter sent on Tuesday 23rd February, we have reviewed our risk assessment and will continue to apply the same system of controls we had in place in the Autumn Term to minimise the risk of infection and keep our children, staff, parents and community as safe as possible. All information about the return to school is also on our website: <https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Parents/Returning-to-School/>

As there have been a few queries, we thought it would be helpful to re-send the information we sent in September – we hope this proves useful in planning for the children's return next week.

Does my child have to attend school?

Yes – school attendance is so important for children's educational progress, their wellbeing, friendships and wider development, therefore attendance will again be mandatory from 8th March and our normal attendance procedures and monitoring will resume, this includes the requirement not to book holidays during term-time. If you have concerns about your child returning to school, please reach out and make contact so that we can reassure you of the measures we are putting in place to reduce risks in line with government guidance.

Please be assured that our focus from Monday 8th March will be a gentle and positive transition back to school for children. Well-being will be our priority alongside a return to a rich curriculum that meets the children 'where they are' and addresses any gaps in learning.

Can my child attend school if we have been abroad?

Please follow all government guidance on the return from foreign travel - this is vital to keep our community safe and stop the spread of COVID-19, particularly any new variants. <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

Will my child have to wear uniform?

Yes – school uniform and PE kits will be worn again from 8th March. However, we know that it may be difficult for the children to have some items due to the pandemic and lockdown. Please know that we will understand if children do not have all of the correct uniform or PE kit at present.

What protective measures will be in place at school?

We have reviewed and maintained our current risk assessment that was in place during the Autumn Term. Essential measures include:

- A requirement that people who have tested positive for COVID-19 stay at home;
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- Enhanced and regular cleaning – including toilets and 'high-touch' surfaces and equipment;
- Engagement with NHS Test and Trace;
- Reducing contacts and maximising distance between those in school where possible and reasonably practicable for the age of the children.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

If we become aware that someone who has attended school has tested positive for COVID-19 we will immediately contact and take advice from our Public Health Team. This team will also contact the school directly if they become aware that someone who has attended school has tested positive – as identified by NHS Test and Trace. We will take all advice from our Public Health Team and the NHS.

If a child or adult is unwell or develops any symptoms of COVID-19 while in school we will ensure they are collected/sent home and we will ask that they take a test. All children can be tested, including those under 5. Whilst we understand that parents are working, we will expect children to be collected from school quickly if we contact you. Please ensure your contact details (including emergency contacts) are up to date on Parentmail and with the School Office.

Will my child be in a 'Bubble'?

The children will continue to be in year group 'Bubbles' so that we can offer the richest educational and social experience possible, whilst minimising the number of contacts in school. Children will be in their classes of 30 for most lessons, but the year group Bubbles will be able to mix at playtimes and for additional lessons and interventions that are a core part of education and provision. Different year group Bubbles will not mix in school until further notice and playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and managed carefully.

How will lunchtime be organised?

Children will spend their breaks and lunch time in their year group Bubbles and will not mix with other year groups.

Hot dinners will be served on the return to school. There will be a new menu, provided by Chartwells from Monday 8th March, served on a 2 week rotation. Similar to last term, a link will be sent home via text for the children to pick their choices in advance and these will remain in place to the end of the school year. Payments will be added to Parentmail over the next couple of weeks.

If your child will be changing to packed lunch, no further action is required.

Will there be clubs and peripatetic lessons?

Aktiva will be offering 'wraparound' provision in the form of Breakfast Club and After School Care. Due to limitations on space, lunchtime, after school curriculum clubs (including choir) and peripatetic music lessons will not be taking place. This will all be regularly reviewed in light of any changes to the government guidance.

Will there be assemblies?

For the foreseeable future there will not be whole school or key stage assemblies, but we will plan a system of virtual assemblies and assemblies being led in class or year groups. There will not be Class Assemblies until further notice.

Will the children be going on trips and having visiting workshops/speakers in school?

On the return to school, these activities will not be taking place. However, we will continue to provide a rich, exciting and broad curriculum for your children at Grove Park. We have planned themed weeks and virtual events to coincide with national and international events and we will create opportunities for learning to be contextualised within the year group 'bubble'. We will also be making the most of outdoor spaces and locally and on the school site. Trips and visitors will be kept under constant review as part of our ongoing risk assessments.

Where do I drop my child off in the morning?

To promote social distancing and reduce the number of people on and around the school site, we will continue to operate the strict one-way system; the only entrance to school will be via Nightingale Close (at the front of the school). The playground gates will be used as an Exit only. If your child comes to school by themselves, please ensure they know the route to Nightingale Close and perhaps practise over the coming days. In addition to this, families will be asked to wait (socially distanced) outside the entrance on Nightingale Close until it is their allocated time to enter the school site (see below). You can enter with your oldest child and walk around the school to drop off younger siblings.

- **Years 5 & 6: 8:40am**
- **Years 3 & 4: 8:45am**
- **Years 1 & 2: 8:50am**
- **Nursery and Reception: 8:55am**

We will no longer be operating the 'Soft Start' system of arrival in the morning and children will **need to arrive promptly at the above times** to ensure that our site is safe for our whole community.

Year groups will enter the school building at the following points and sanitise their hands before entering their classroom:

Nursery: Nursery gate

Reception: Gates by classrooms

Year 1 and 2: Key Stage 1 Soft Start door – near the water fountains

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6: Key Stage 2 Soft Start door

We ask that parents leave the school playground as soon as they have dropped their child off. Please do not wait at the classroom windows. We are very sorry that, at present, our playground cannot be used as a place for parents to socialise.

Where does my child leave their scooter or bike?

Nursery, Reception and Years 1, 2, 3 & 4: scooters and bikes will be parked in the main playground. Children in these year groups must not leave these at the front of the school as they will not be able to pick them up at the end of the day due to the one-way system.

Year 5: will use the bike racks at the front of the school near the Office.

Year 6: will use the bike racks on the grass near the Key Stage 2 Soft Start Door.

For information on safe travel to school, please see the Parent Section of our website: <https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Parents/Safer-Travel-Advice-from-TfL/>

Where do I collect my child from at the end of the school day?

Nursery: please see separate Parentmail for a reminder of collection arrangements for Nursery.

Reception and Years 1, 2, 3 and 4: from exterior classroom doors. The class teacher will send your child out; please do not stand directly in front of the classroom doors. We ask that Year 4 parents wait on the grass to avoid congestion and promote social distancing.

Year 5: from the hall exterior door at the front of the school.

Year 6: from the Music Room in the playground.

Please remember that the one-way system will also be in operation at the end of the day and the only entrance to the site will be via Nightingale Close (at the front of the school).

What time do we collect our children at the end of the day (Reception to Year 6)?

To reduce the number of families on site at any one time, **we created a 'window' of pickup time from 3:10pm to 3:25pm.** The school will be busiest between 3:10pm and 3:15pm - please arrive outside of these times if possible.

All parents are to use the right hand gate with the exception of Year 5, who will enter through the double gate and exit through the left hand gate (unless you have siblings). Please remember that once you have entered the gate next to the KS2 building you must follow the one way system to the exit in the playground.

Please ensure you arrive on time to collect your child, as we need to start cleaning the classrooms and school site promptly at the end of each day.

Can I talk to the Class Teacher at the end of the day?

Unfortunately, as we need to keep the site as safe and clear as possible, parents will not be able to talk to the teacher at the end of the day. Please e-mail the School Office and the teachers will contact you by phone or Parentmail (whichever is most appropriate). Social distancing is vital in reducing the spread of COVID-19, so we ask that parents leave the school playground as soon as they have picked up their child. Hopefully things will be back to normal in the very near future.

Can parents come into school for meetings and to help in class?

There will be no volunteers in school at present in order to reduce the number of non-essential visitors and to minimise contacts. Most meetings will be held over the phone or virtually until further notice. We really appreciate parents' help and support and we hope that we will be able to welcome you back as soon as is safely possible.

Will there be Homework?

The Class Teachers will let you know about Home Learning over the coming days.

Will there be remote learning if the school went into another lockdown or if a year group was required to self-isolate and remain at home?

Yes – please see our website for information: <https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Parents/Home-Learning/>

What equipment will my child need to bring to school?

It is still recommended that children limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day and therefore we are only permitting essential items. Your child will need the following:

- PE Kit – on PE days Year 5 & 6 will arrive and depart in PE kit so there is no need to get changed at school;
- Class Teachers will remind you about PE days in the Weekly Parentmails;
- Named water bottle every day - children **will not** be allowed to drink directly from the water fountains;
- Cap or coat depending on weather;
- School rucksacks or Book Bags are allowed – please ensure these are named **on the front** and **do not have key rings on them**;
- If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school because they travel independently, the phone must be handed to their Class Teacher in the morning and it will be placed in a zip-lock bag until the end of the day (Year 5 and 6 only);

Please do not allow your child to bring non-essential items to school e.g. toys from home.

Until further notice, please **do not send your child to school with a pencil case**. We will provide all stationery and ensure that children have their own personal set of stationery and that equipment is cleaned prior to being used.

Will there still be Parents' Meetings on March 22nd – March 30th?

To ensure the children have had time to settle back into the routines of school, these meetings have been postponed and will be held in a few weeks' time. You will shortly receive information about the new date and how to sign up for an appointment. These meetings will all be held virtually.

Will my child be given a Reading Book?

Reading is vital for children's development, imagination, empathy and learning and so they will have Reading Books in September. Free-Readers may bring one book from home or choose one from the class Reading Area. Books will be cleaned before they are placed back on the book shelf in the classroom.

If your child is reading 'colour-band' books, these will be changed by a member of school staff. The baskets of books will no longer be in the playground for parents to access.

To ensure that we are constantly keeping the children and our community safe, whilst offering the best education and provision possible, all of the above arrangements will be kept under constant review and regularly measured against our risk assessment and current guidelines. We apologise in advance that arrangements may have to be altered or adapted – but we know from that if there is one thing we are skilled at as a community, it is managing change!

Have a good week - we are very excited to see you all on Monday!

Kind Regards,

Miss Rachel Davies
Headteacher

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School Business & Operations Lead



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