



Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Reception to Year 6,

We hope that this finds you safe and well and that, despite the circumstances, you all managed to find time to rest over the holiday period.

In light of the government announcement on 30th December, the children at Grove Park Primary School will be learning from home at the start of the Spring term. A return to school for face-to-face teaching will be reviewed by the government over the next couple of weeks.

While we know that this is a very difficult situation for children, parents and staff, the decision to move to remote learning has been made by the government as part of the Tier 4 'Stay at Home' guidance. The children and staff are being directed to learn and teach from home due to the particularly high infection rates of COVID-19 in London and to protect our community and the NHS at this critical time.

This letter aims to address any questions and queries you may have about the start of the Spring term.

When will the children be able to return to face-to-face teaching in the school building?

At present, the only information we have been given is that a review will take place over the next two weeks to decide whether the children can come back into school on Monday 18th January. We do not yet know when this review will be. The Department for Education has reassured us that the priority is for children to be in school with their teachers and peers, but that this has to be in-line with transmission rates of COVID-19 and an assessment of the pressure on the NHS.

My child is asking lots of questions about why school is closed, will any information be given to the children directly?

We know that not being able to come into the school building may be confusing for young children. In light of this, please find on our website an assembly that I pre-recorded which can be used by families to support children in understanding what is happening and what it will be like to learn at home: <https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Parents/Home-Learning/>

I have heard that some children can come into school? This would be better for my child; please can they join this group?

Due to the very high transmission rates of COVID-19 at present, it is safer for children to be at home. According to specific criteria, some children will be accessing remote learning in school primarily to support those parents who are Critical Workers. The children who come into the building will be taking part in exactly **the same remote learning as the children who remain at home**. The children in school will be working independently on a device (e.g. a Chrome Book) on which they will be able to access the live lessons and Google Classroom under the supervision of support staff. This will ensure all children have the same equal access to and experience of the curriculum.

When will remote learning begin?

Monday 4th January is an INSET Day and so the Spring term at Grove Park begins on Tuesday 5th January. Your child's Class Teacher will send activities via Parentmail that can be completed on Tuesday 5th and then Google Classroom will begin on Wednesday 6th January.

How will I know what my child has to do at home?

On Monday 4th January you will receive a Parentmail from the Class Teacher, it will include the activities for Tuesday 5th.

On Tuesday 5th you will receive another Parentmail with an outline of all the learning that will take place for the rest of the week. The Parentmail will include the Zoom links and times for any live teaching sessions that will be taking place.

How much remote learning will there be each day? What happens if the teacher is unwell?

There will be two live teaching sessions on Zoom each day and in addition to this there will be independent activities for the children to complete – these will be accessible on Google Classroom. There will be enough work to keep the children occupied with learning for approximately 4 hours – your child can work at times that are convenient for your family.

Live teaching sessions will be delivered and supervised by both teachers in each year group. If one of the teachers is unwell there will be one live teaching session on that day. If both year group teachers are unwell, members of the Senior Leadership Team will lead the live sessions.

There will be a range of subject areas covered throughout the week, ensuring the children continue to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum while they are at home. There will be one PE and one music lesson per week too – links for these will also be stored in Google Classroom.

Once a week there will also be a Class Zoom which will be time for social and peer interaction.

Does my child have to wear uniform for live sessions?

Please ensure the children are dressed appropriately for live sessions (e.g. not in nightwear). They do not have to be in school uniform, but you may find that if the children wear their school jumper when they are working they will feel more 'ready' to engage in school work.

Please try to avoid the children joining the live sessions in their bedrooms.

What will happen if my child is not able to join one or both of the live teaching sessions?

We know that the times of live sessions may not suit all families (e.g. a device may not be available) and that some children find live sessions overwhelming. Therefore, all live teaching sessions will be recorded and the link will be put in Google Classroom as soon as possible.

I understand that the live teaching sessions will be recorded, how will this affect my child's personal data?

The recordings of the live teaching sessions (not class Zooms on Fridays) will be shared on Google classroom. Please ensure your child's video is off if you do not want their image to be on the recording. It is also best to only put your child's first name as their screen name on Zoom.

Does my child have to complete the remote learning?

Whilst we know that each family will have different pressures and circumstances, the expectation is that the children will engage with as much of the remote learning as possible. We are aware that some children will not be able to come to all of the live sessions and may need to watch the recordings at another time during the day. Therefore, the way in which we will be keeping track of the children's participation in the learning will be by viewing their completed and submitted work in Google Classroom. If the staff notice that a child is not completing or submitting work we will make contact by phone to see how we can support.

How does my child log-on to Google Classroom?

A separate Parentmail will be sent on Tuesday 5th January. Please look out for this e-mail as it will include a reminder of your child's username and password. There is a link to the Parent Workshop and User Guide on the school website:

<https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Parents/Home-Learning/>

Who do I contact if I have any queries while the school building is closed?

Technical queries about Google Classroom

Please contact Mrs Ahmed: remotelearninggpp@gmail.com

General communication with the Class Teacher

Please e-mail the School Office as usual: info@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk

Your child can make comments directly on Google Classroom about how they have found a piece of work or activity. If your child is too young to do this for themselves, parents can type these comments. Please do not use Google Classroom for communication with the Class Teacher, for consistency this is all via the School Office.

We know that schools have been closed due to the extremely high transmission rates in Hounslow at present and that this decision has been made to keep everyone as safe as possible. However, we also know that it can be difficult for families to have children working remotely from home due to everyone's very different circumstances and pressures. It is hoped that the information in this letter is useful but, as we said during last year's lockdown, please reach out for help and advice where needed. We are here for all of you.

Last year was a constant reminder of the strength and kindness of our Grove Park family and we know from experience that we can get through this together even though we are far apart.

Please all stay safe and we will see you soon.

Kind regards,

Miss Davies and All of the Staff at Grove Park.



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