



Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your Summer Holiday has started well. On behalf of all the staff, I wanted to say the biggest and most heartfelt 'thank you' for all of your support and feedback this year – it is definitely one we will never forget!

As we reflect back on all that has happened and been achieved this year, we know that you may already have questions about the return to school in September.

We will send more detailed information about the new academic year towards the end of the holidays, but we thought it would be useful to send some general and broad information now and to present this in the form of questions you may have. Information from the DfE can be found here: [What Parents & Carers Need to Know](#)

Will all year groups be back in September?

Yes – at present, we are being asked to plan for all children, in all year groups, to return to school full-time in September. Schools are being asked to re-open fully for all children because:

- The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased;
- The NHS Test and Trace system is up and running;
- The government now understands more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within schools;
- The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school;
- There is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults;
- Our Risk Assessment will be updated to ensure we are ready for the return of all children.

Does my child have to attend school?

Yes – school attendance is so important for children's educational progress, for their wellbeing, friendships and wider development, therefore attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year and our normal attendance procedures will resume. 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 in September 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.

Will my child have to wear uniform?

Yes – uniform will be worn in September. Please [click here](#) for the link to our new uniform provider, Marks & Spencer.

What protective measures will be in place?

We will review and maintain our current risk assessment that was in place for the return of some year groups in June. 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;
- 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.

Will my child be in a Bubble?

The children will 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.

Will there be clubs and peripatetic lessons?

Aktiva will be offering 'wraparound' provision in the form of Breakfast Club and After School Care. You will shortly be receiving a letter about the provision offered by Aktiva. Due to limitations on space and the need to minimise Bubbles mixing as far as possible, lunchtime and after school curriculum clubs (including choir) will not be taking place when we return to school. Unfortunately, limitations with space means that we are unable to offer peripatetic music lessons. This will all be regularly reviewed in light of any changes to the government guidance.

Will there be assemblies?

There will not be assemblies until further notice, but we will plan a system of virtual assemblies and assemblies being led in class.

I have heard that schools are having staggered start times - is this happening at Grove Park?

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 Summer Holidays. In addition to this, children will be asked to arrive at the following times in the morning:

- **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.

I have heard that schools are having staggered finish times - is this happening at Grove Park?

At the end of the day the one-way system will still be in place and children will be collected at the following times:

- **Key Stage 2: 3:10pm**
- **Early Years and Key Stage 1: 3:15pm**

Further information will be sent about drop-off and collection points before the return in September.

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

Unfortunately, we will not be having volunteers in school 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 in school and we hope that we will be able to welcome you back as soon as is safely possible.

Will the children in Year 3 & 4 have swimming lessons?

At present we are not able to make bookings for swimming lessons – we will update you if this changes. The children in Years 1 - 6 will all have two PE lessons during the week – one taught by Mr Rick and the other by Mr Nind.

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 this year that if there is one thing we are skilled at as a community, it is managing change!

Once again thank you to everyone for being the most amazing school and community to serve.

I hope you have a restful and safe Summer Holiday.

Kind Regards,



Miss Rachel Davies
Headteacher



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