

Tuesday 2nd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whole School Reopening - Monday 8th March

We are incredibly excited to confirm that school will be open to all pupils from Monday 8th March. With government announcements on Monday, the light at the end of the tunnel is beginning to shine more brightly. It would not be an exaggeration to say that staff in school are very excited to see your children and taking a step towards normality!

School will reopen to **ALL** pupils on **Monday 8th March**. Attendance from this date is **compulsory** and should your child not be in school we will be following our usual attendance procedures. Details of these procedures can be found on our website (www.grovehouseprimary.co.uk) but if your child is not in school you must contact us on the first morning of the absence before 9:30am on 01274 636921.

We are currently reviewing our Risk Assessments, which will be shared with you in the coming days. In line with government guidance, the approach for reopening continues to be about 'Control and Response.' A number of controls have been put in place to control the spread of Coronavirus, including minimising contact with others.

We know you will have many questions about the reopening. We have tried to answer these below but please be assured that further information will follow early next week to confirm the details.

Does my child have to come back to school?

Yes. Children have now missed a significant amount of learning time and it is essential they now return to school to continue their learning and to support their social and emotional wellbeing. We understand that you will be nervous to send your child back and are here to discuss your concerns with you. If you would like a member of the senior leadership team to contact you or have a specific question, please contact us on admin@grovehouseprimary.co.uk to make an appointment.

What happens if I do not send my child back to school?

As school is now compulsory for all children, should you decide not to send your child back to school, we may have to issue you with a fixed penalty notice of £60 per adult per child. We really do not want this to happen so it is important that we work together to ensure your children attend school each day.

My child has medical needs. Do I still have to send them back to school?

Unless you have a letter from your doctor, we will be expecting your child to be in school. We will however work with families to ensure we have further risk assessed any medical needs and ensure that we have put all the control measures we can in place to keep everyone safe. We have already been in touch with some families where this may be the case but if you feel your child has a medical condition that is of risk, please do let us know.

What time will my child need to be at school each morning?

For the time being, we will continue to operate a soft drop off routine for the first term. This means that when dropping your child off each morning, you can do so between 8.50am and 9.10am, which we hope will allow parents to drop off without rushing whilst being socially distant. On arrival, your child must come straight into school to ensure groups are not gathering on the playground. The classrooms doors and playground gates will be closed promptly at 9.10am. Children arriving at school after this time may be marked as late and will need to wait outside the office door whilst we make arrangements to take them to class. This system will be in place until at least Monday 17th May.

What should my child bring to school?

Bring as little as possible. It's fine to bring in book bags and lunch boxes – we will store these on pegs or in the classroom but other than that, its essential items only.

Will my child be back in their usual class with their friends?

Yes. Your children will be in their classes as usual. They will be taught by their class teacher and supported by their teaching assistant as usual.

Will my child be having PE lessons?

Yes. Sports UK will continue to deliver our PE lessons along with class teachers. Any equipment is used during the lesson will be cleaned and wiped down before it is used by anyone else. **On the day of the PE lesson, your child may come to school in their PE kits and stay in them for the whole day.** This will mean that they will not have to change in school or bring any additional bags into school with them. All PE lessons will be outside so please ensure your child has appropriate, warm plain black jogging bottoms to wear. Children should not wear branded clothing or football kits.

Will swimming be restarting for children in year 4?

No. There will be no swimming lessons for the remainder of the academic year. If your child is in year 4, we will ensure they catch up with their swimming lessons in either year 5 or 6.

How will you help my child catch up with the learning they have missed?

We had already started work on our approach to lost learning before this lock down and our intention is to continue with this. When your children return to school on the 8th March, our focus will be their wellbeing and helping them settle back into school life. We will spend some time working with your children to see what they can remember and this information will help us decide what to focus on next.

What time should I collect my child?

Children in Nursery, Reception, years 1 and 2 can be collected from their classroom doors from the slightly earlier time of **3pm**. Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 can be collected at the usual time of **3.10pm**. Please collect any younger children first. As soon as you have collected your child, we would ask all parents to make their way home safely quickly.

Is the one way system still in place around school for adults to use?

The one way system will still be open for adults to use as they see fit. An additional gate will also be open on the main playground allowing adults to make a swift exit from the playground after dropping off. Please work together to keep your children and each other safe.

Will before and after school clubs be open as usual?

Yes. Breakfast Club will reopen on Monday 8th March from 8.00am but places will only be available for parents who work or for vulnerable children. Places will need to be booked in advance through our booking system Parent Portal on the Arbor App, download through Google Play store or Apple App Store.

Can my child wear a mask to school?

The advice we have been given is that children do not need to wear masks in school. You and your child may wear masks as you make your journey to school each day. On arrival to school, your child will be asked to remove their mask and place it into a sealed bag before entering the building. Disposable masks will be put in the bin and reusable masks will need to be stored in your child's book bag. We will not be taking the children's temperature as they come to school each day. Both these control measures are in line with the guidance issued.

How can I speak to my child's class teacher?

At this time, we are still unable to allow parents and visitors into school. If you need to speak to a teacher, please contact the school office via telephone. Staff in the office will arrange for the teacher to call you back. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact us via email on office@grovehouseprimary.co.uk

What happens if my child displays coronavirus symptoms at school?

If your child displays symptoms at school, they will wait with an adult, who will wear PPE, in an isolated room to ensure there is no further contact with others. We will then contact you so that you can come and collect your child and take them for a test at one of the local testing stations. We would ask that once you have the test results you let us know as soon as possible and it would help us if you would send a photo screenshot of the confirmation to admin@grovehouseprimary.co.uk so that we can take any further appropriate action.

What if there is a positive coronavirus case in my child's class?

If a child in your child's class tests positive for coronavirus we will follow government procedures. This includes us contacting and working with the local test and trace procedures. This may then result in us having to close a class for 10 days whilst children isolate. We will provide parents with separate information on what happens if we are in this situation.

Will my child miss even more learning if their class has to close and they are isolating?

If your child has to isolate, learning will be made available on Google Classroom. We have a number of laptops available in school and these will be made available for children in isolation. More information will be provided if this should happen.

What should I do if I am worried?

Please talk to us. We are all in this together and this situation. If you are in any way worried about anything you must reach out to us and we will do everything we can to help you.

What can we do at home to help?

It would really support your children's transition back to school if you could help us at home. You can do this by beginning to get back into the school routine. For example, getting up a little earlier each day over the next few days, limiting the amount of screen time and just keeping on top of home learning for this final week. We know this has been a tough term but these small steps will help make the transition from home to school a little easier.

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We still do not really know the full impact that this terrible virus has had on our society. If you are now finding that your circumstances have changed and your financial situation is now more strained you may be entitled to free school meals. We are always available to talk to you about how to apply for free school meals and can put you in touch with other agencies who can support you and your family.

Over the next few weeks we will keep our families up to date with any further developments via text or email so please ensure if you have changed your mobile number or have moved house that we have your new details by emailing us at office@grovehouseprimary.co.uk

It has been a long road but we are now beginning to see a little light at the end of the tunnel. On behalf of our whole school team and governors, I would like to say we really cannot wait to see you all back at school again.

Kindest regards



Alex Summerscales
Interim Head of School