

Tuesday 16th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus Update 17 – 16th June 2020

Although I am sure we all hoped that we would have some time together before the summer break, this now doesn't look like it will be the case. Social distancing in school is a real challenge. Our classrooms are simply not big enough to welcome everyone back into school. I regularly listen to parents concerns over sending their child back to school too soon and I fully understand that. No one will be made to send their child back to school before we break up for the summer. We now have our sights firmly placed on the future whilst we wait for the government to guide our next steps.

As I write, we do not have any information on when and if school will reopen to children in years 2, 3, 4 and 5. As always, once this information is released from the government we will share our plans with you. In the meantime, our support for home learning continues via our Facebook page and the school website.

If you are the parent of a child in Reception, year 1 or year 6 and you have decided you do now want your child to return to school, please do make contact with us. Our office phones are now manned daily from 8.30 – 3.30pm. We review our bubbles at the end of each week ready for the next Monday. When the bubbles grow or change, we have to review the risk assessments and gain approval from our Chair of Governors. This process takes time. If you want your child to be able to come back to school, we won't be able to do it as quickly as the next day but we will work with you to confirm when the review process is complete and we are ready for your child to join us.

I am keen that leaders and staff continue to prepare for the future and be as ready as we can be to welcome our pupils back in the school, whenever that may be. A huge thank you to parents that attended our virtual academy consultation meeting last week. If you were unable to attend, you can find out more on the 'Consultation' page of the school website. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact the school office and either myself or the Chair of Governors will give you a call back.

As you know, we have spent some time this year working with our colleagues at NHS and Born in Bradford on a project to promote physical activity for children. I hope many of you have a requested your home activity pack but don't worry if you haven't, you can still apply for it by visiting their website <https://jumpathome.org/playpack/> or by email info@joinusmoveplay.org or even by send the JU:MP team a message on WhatsApp. Their number is 07855115066. The team at JU:MP are also currently working on lots of things to keep you busy during the summer, including treasure hunts and dinosaur trails at local parks. We will let you know when more resources and their new app is ready to launch. Its sounds like great fun!

So much usually happens at this time of the year and we aim to keep you as informed as possible through some frequently asked questions:

Will we get an end of year report?

Yes. Like any other year, your child will get an academic report as we break up in July. This year there are certain things we are unable to report on. For example, there will be no comment or grade for academic attainment or progress because children will have missed a total of 14 weeks of learning. Instead we will be reporting to you to confirm which topics have been covered this year and how well your child was working up until the day we closed on 20th March. Reports will be distributed to parents in the final week of term.

When will we know which class and which teacher our children will have next year?

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We are aiming to release this information to you by the beginning of July. We will be giving parents a pen portrait of each teacher so you know a little more about them as they prepare to meet you and your children when the next academic year begins. We are also running hand over meetings from teacher to teacher allow us to hand over key information about your children including how they like to learn.

What about transition to new classes?

When we do return to school, we will be running transition activities so that we can help your children know what it is like to be in their new class and year group. We will also be putting a large focus on pupil wellbeing and mental health. We know we are going to have to work hard to reassure your children to help them process what has happened in the world around them and be ready to learn again.

What about all the time my child has missed from school?

I know many of you continue to worry about the time your children have lost by not being in school but please try not to. Whilst our doors have been closed leaders have been working on more of a recovery curriculum to ensure that when we are all back together we will get back on track. We are also waiting for government guidance on how the curriculum will work moving forward and what support is being given to schools to help them recover. This is something that will take time but we will do it.

What about the residential trip that were booked for KS2 classes?

At the moment, we intend to run these trips next academic year. If we are unable to do this, we will inform you as quickly as we can.

Update for Year 6 Parents

What's happening about the year 6 residential?

I can now confirm that the year 6 residential in has been cancelled. The money you have paid will be returned to you and will come in the form of a cheque. Our administration team are now working to get this money returned to parents as quickly as we can. As soon as the funds are on the way back to you, we will update you.

When will the hoodies arrive?

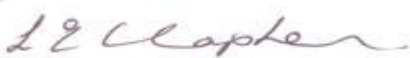
Hoodies for pupils in year 6 have been ordered. As soon as we receive them in school we will set up a socially distanced collection service to allow you to collect the hoodies from school.

Will any year 6 transition activities take place this year?

No. Under current guidance, we are unable to visit other schools with your children or allow visitors into school. Our year 6 teachers have met via video with Year 7 pastoral teams at our 12 feeder secondary schools, to ensure they have all the information they need about your child allowing them to start in year 7.

You will shortly be receiving at home a little 'All About Me' pack that you can complete with your children. This can then be handed to year 7 teachers to help them learn about your children. This also comes with a letter about how to get uniform ready for starting secondary school.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Clapham
(Headteacher)

You might not be able to see us but we promise we are there.

We're here to help as much as we can because we really care.

If there is something we can help with, we'll do our very best.

Contact us on the address below and we will do the rest!

admin@grovehouseprimary.co.uk

homelearning@grovehouseprimary.co.uk

Emergency Text/Phone: 07423 719796