

Thursday 2nd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus Update – 2nd April

Welcome to the second of our Coronavirus updates. Despite the fact we are not operating as usual, it's amazing how much there is to update you on in just one week. At the end of this letter, we have created a 'Frequently Asked' section which we hope will provide you with answers to any questions you may have.

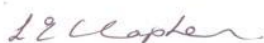
This week, teachers have begun making welfare calls to families. We want to do our best to keep in touch and be there to offer any support we can. Some of these calls may come from withheld numbers. Generally, if that call is coming through between 9am and 3.30pm you can be fairly sure that it is a member of our staff ringing. If we are not successful on the first try we will keep trying. If by the end of tomorrow, you haven't heard from us and you want us to call you, feel free to send us a message on the email address below and we will make you a priority call next week.

We finally received guidance from the government on how we could support families who are in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals. It took a team of us more than a day to put this new system in place but we submitted our first voucher request yesterday. It seems that hundreds of other schools in the country also submitted their requests yesterday and the system running a little slower than expected. If you are expecting vouchers, please bear with us. I have spoken to the company issuing them and they have confirmed our request has been received and processed. It's now simply a case of waiting for vouchers to pop up in your inbox so you can use them. If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meals, our FAQ section of this letter will tell you what you need to do next. Please remember though, we will do our best to support any family that finds themselves in difficulty during these exceptional circumstances.

We now have just a small group of children who we are now supported through the Hanson Hub. We are very grateful to parents who have been able to rearrange shifts and their child care between them. This means that there's less movement around the city and we can continue to do our best to protect families, staff and the NHS by staying at home. The hub isn't just about child care; it is about us supporting the UK's emergency response to Covid-19. We have all been saddened by the increasing number of deaths in the UK over the last few days. More cases are being identified in our city each day so it's more important than ever that we work together to protect each other. Stay safe and stay indoors.

Finally, I want to thank the team here at Grove House. They are an incredible group of professionals, from our fabulous administration and premises team to our teachers and support staff. This has been a true team effort and we could not do it without the support of our families. We thank you for your kindness. Please continue to stay safe and stay indoors.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Clapham
Head of School

Frequently Asked Questions

The list of questions below come from our Grove House families. We hope they answer some questions you may have.

When will school reopen?

At the moment, we really don't know. We need to continue following the government guidance and do everything we can to work together to stop the spread of this virus. Once it is felt that it is safe for us to reopen again, we will be instructed to do just that. The priority right now is safety.

When we will be set some more work?

Home learning over a period of weeks is very different to learning in school. It is not expected that you run daily lessons in the same way as we do in school and we will not be setting work in that same way. Activities set are to keep knowledge we have already taught ticking over so that when we come back to school we can build on it.

We are also very conscious of spending a lot of time in front of a screen as this isn't ideal. We have put activities on the Home Learning area of the school website which is updated every week and have now starting putting daily activities on the school Facebook page.

Although this isn't something we would usually say please don't worry too much about learning new knowledge in maths and English. We would ask you to make physical safety and mental wellbeing as much as a priority as you can. For example, it might be that you prioritise reading, writing and maths tasks on a morning and enjoy spending time together on an afternoon.

If we don't go back to school until September, what will happen about missing so much learning at school?

We know you will be worried about your children missing so much school and so much learning. Once we are back, we will work to make appropriate adjustments in school to ensure children catch up with key learning. Teachers had already mapped out the entire years learning so we will have a very clear picture of what has been missed. We will ensure missed learning is built in to our plans as we move forward.

Over the last 2 years, children at Grove House have made rapid progress in their learning and we are confident that we can continue to do exactly the same again.

What will happen about the school trips we have already paid for?

We are currently working with venues and coach companies to help us understand what refunds we are entitled to. As soon as we have more information on this we will let you know.

Will year 6 still have anything to recognise their final year in primary school?

We have lots of ideas as to how we can mark the end of primary school for our year 6 pupils even if those events take place in September. Again, until we have a better idea of how long we will be closed for, it's hard to put this plans in to place. As soon as we know more we will let you know.

The company we use for year 6 hoodies has temporarily closed as they have been unable to get the supplies they need to continue trading. When they are in a position to reopen, we will make arrangements for leavers hoodies to be ordered and distributed. At the moment though, we do not have a firm timescale for when this will be.

Should we not reopen before September, we will continue to work with high schools to make sure your child's transition is as smooth as possible.

Grove House Primary School, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4ED
Telephone: (01274) 636921 Email: office@grovehouseprimary.co.uk

My child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and I haven't got any meal vouchers?

Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 do not pay for school dinners as part of an existing government programme. This is not the same as getting Free School Meals. To get Free School Meals, you would need to meet a criteria and apply for these separately. If you are not sure if you are eligible, just send us an email or a Facebook message and a member of staff will ring you and talk you through the criteria.

Can I apply for Free School Meals now?

Yes. As we work through this time of uncertainty, financial situations will change for many families. You can apply for free school meals at any time and we would really appreciate you doing this. Not only would applying give you automatic access to the meal vouchers whilst we are closed, it would also give you free meals and free uniform when we reopen. In addition, it would also help school. We receive additional funding for every child who is eligible and we can put this funding to great use when we reopen again. You can find more information about how to apply for Free School Meals under the Pupil Premium section of our website which can be found under the 'Parents' dropdown menu.

I don't qualify for free school meals. Can you still help me?

There may still be things we can do. Please reach out and talk to us. You can contact us on any of the email addresses or the number below.

What happens over the Easter holiday?

We will continue to post activities on the website and Facebook page to keep you busy whilst you are at home. We will continue checking in with our welfare calls and meal vouchers will continue to be distributed.

What is the best way to contact school?

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

