

Thursday 17th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

September Opening – Monday 7th September 2020.

I hope you have all had a restful summer break and are continuing to stay safe and well. Staff have now begun their preparations for reopening school on 7th September and I am now in a position to share some of this information with you. 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 7th September**. 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 putting together a number of Risk Assessments, which will be shared with you in the coming days. In line with government guidance, the approach for reopening is about 'Control and Response.' A number of controls have been put in place to control the spread of Coronavirus, including minimising contact with others.

In the meantime, to reassure you and your families, we have put together a number of frequently asked questions so that you can begin to see how things will work.

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 access 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. 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 be completing individual risk assessments for children with significant medical needs. We will work on these with you to ensure that we have put all the control measure we can in place to keep everyone safe.

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

We will also be operating 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.

What should my child bring to school?

Bring as little as possible. Its 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. You can find details of who is teaching each class on our school website. There will be times when the teacher is not in class and either Mrs Hill or Miss Smith will cover. We will do our very best to ensure it is the same adult that covers the class each time.

Will my child mix with any other classes/children?

When your children are in their lessons, they will remain in their classes. At lunchtime and playtime, your children will mix with children in their bubbles only. This means that children in year 1 will mix with children in year 2, children in year 3 will mix with children in year 4 and children in year 5 will mix with children in year 6. Children in nursery and reception will also make up one bubble and may mix at lunchtime. Contact at these points will be time limited and mainly outdoors. We will not be holding any school assemblies this term; all assemblies will be led by teachers in classrooms instead.

Where will my child have their lunch?

If your child has hot lunches, they will eat in the dining room. If your child has sandwiches, they will eat in the school hall. Using this additional space means that we can organise children to have lunch in their bubbles whilst ensure they are as socially distant as possible. Once they have eaten, they will go outside to play in their designated playground zone. The children will wash or sanitize their hands before they eat and the tables will be sanitized before the next group of children come in to eat.

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.

My child is in year 4. Will they be going swimming?

No. We will ensure they go swimming when they are in either year 5 or 6 instead to ensure they have covered this area of the curriculum.

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

We have worked over the summer to adjust our planning to ensure that children will learn what they missed during the previous academic year and over time will catch up. We will continue to issue Topic Maps on the school website so you can see what your child is learning. There will be an increase focus on wellbeing and mental health, especially in the first half term. This will help us understand what else we need to have in place to support your children.

The government will also be issuing schools with an amount of catch up funding. We have not had all the details of how this will work just yet but as soon as we do, and as school as we establish our recovery plan, we will share this with you.

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 now open from 7.45am and St Francis will be operating their afterschool club as usual. We will also be running a range of sports after school clubs. Should you wish your child to attend any of these clubs, we will be asking you to book a place through our new electronic booking system, which forms part of our track and trace procedures. Details of this will follow towards the end of next week.

Can I park outside school?

To avoid congestion and groups of adults waiting time around school, we are asking parents to park a short distance from school and walk the short distance into school. Please be considerate and work with us to keep all our children and adults safe. As always, please be respectful of local residents.

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 no longer 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 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 admin@grovehouseprimaryschool.co.uk.

Have you increased the cleaning and hygiene routine in school?

Yes. Each classroom has a cleaning kit allowing staff to wipe down tables and touch points whenever they feel it is needed. Additional cleaning of door handles and touch points will also take place at lunchtime. We will also be following strict hand hygiene also. Children will wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including when they arrive at school, before and after break times and before they eat. Each classroom now has a hand sanitizer dispenser for use as you enter and leave the room and in addition both soap and hand sanitizer is available in each classroom.

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 mobile 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 14 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?

Over the summer, we have set up Google Classroom, an online learning platform, which will allow learning to continue from home through pre-recorded content. Learning will be organised in a way where we will deliver more knowledge based learning at home and save learning new skills for the classroom when we can all be together. We will be working with families within the first few weeks of the new school year to ensure you have the appropriate internet access and learning facilities at home to be able to access your Google Classroom. More information will follow on how this will work once term starts again in September.

What should I do if I am worried?

Please talk to us. We are all in this together and this situation is not going to go away quickly. If you are in anyway 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 be fabulous 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 weeks, limiting the amount of screen time and perhaps doing a little reading each day. These small steps will help make the transition from home to school a little easier for us all.

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 would be able to talk to you about an additional ways we could support you and your family.

Over the next week, we will be texting families regularly to confirm where and how to access information such as our book systems and risk assessments. If you have changed your mobile number or have moved house please ensure we have your new details by emailing us at admin@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 the teaching team and governors of the school, we really cannot wait to see you all and have us under one roof again.

Kindest regards



Miss L Clapham
Interim Executive Headteacher