

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for September

To help parents understand what school will look like in September, we have put together some key information.

The government has issued new guidance to schools for September. The approach is about 'Control and Response' which is slightly different than we have been used to and recommends that schools have in place a number of controls to minimise contact. We will therefore have four 'bubbles': Nursery and Reception children will be in one bubble, with the children in year 1 and year 2 making up the next. Our third bubble will be for children in years 3 and 4 with our fourth bubble being for children in years 5 and 6. The approach means that contact will be minimised between children in other classes and beyond their own 'bubble'. The only time children may come into contact with each other, will be at break times as they play and this time will be in the outdoors.

Our doors will reopen for the start of the autumn term on **Monday 7th September when ALL children are expected to return to school**. If you decide to keep your child off school, you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice but we hope families will work with us and we will not have to take this approach. **Our breakfast club will also reopen at the new early time of 7.45am on the 7th September.**

We would like school to be as 'normal' as possible for children in September. Children should wear their school uniform again. PE lessons will be outside so please ensure your child has appropriate, warm clothing to wear. We will continue with our approach of excellent hand hygiene and staff will wear PPE when support children will any first aid needs.

Since we reopened on 1st June, we have been operating a one-way system around school. This has been to try to help parents not to cross each other on the playground, especially where the area at the back of school becomes narrow. The one-way system will still operate from September. Parents will have the option to continue to follow this rather than having to turn around if it is unsafe to do so. An additional gate will be open at the roadside of school, which we hope will allow more parents to exit the school grounds quickly.

We are very lucky to have two hall spaces in school. If your child has packed lunches, they will eat in the assembly hall and those who have hot dinners will eat in the dinner hall. This will mean that children will remain in their bubbles whilst having the space to eat lunch safely. After they have eaten, they will go outside to play in their designated areas of the playground. Children will be able to play out together at playtime and lunchtime and will only come into contact with other children in their bubble. For example, year 1 and 2 will be able to play out together. They will have a designated area on the playground to play in and they will not mixed with children from other bubbles.

We will also be operating a soft drop off and pick up routine. 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.

Children in 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 without delay. We ask parents to be considerate when dropping off and picking up and as always, park a little further away from school and walk in to ensure the road outside school is safe.

We understand that you and your child may wish to wear masks as you make your journey to school each day. Your child will be asked to remove their mask and place it into a sealed bag as they enter the school building. 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.

Although we would love to be able to invite visitors and parents into school, we have taken the decision to minimise school visitors during the autumn term. We will also not be holding any whole school assemblies. The children in year 4 will not be going swimming next year. Instead, they will go in year 5.

We will be following strict hand hygiene and cleaning regimes in school to keep all the children and adults safe but recognise that we will have to take action should there be a positive covid-19 case in school or if we are subject to a regional lockdown. Over the summer break, we will be busy setting up Google Classroom, an online platform, which will allow teachers to continue teaching remotely keeping learning going whilst a bubble or the whole school is closed. We will ensure you and your children know how to access this learning when we return in September to that everyone knows what to do should we be in that position.

Our systems and our response to Covid-19 are under constant review. Over the summer break, we will again complete our risk assessments ready to share with you at the start of the new school year. If new guidance is released, or we can see we have an opportunity to improve something, we will do just that. It has been 14 teaching weeks since we have all been together in school and I have no doubt that we will all have a little adjusting to do but we have a fantastic, committed team and I am confident that we can do this.

Please stay safe over the summer. I know I speak on behalf of all the staff at Grove House when I say we really cannot wait to have everyone back together again and make the next academic year our best yet.

Kindest regards



Miss L Clapham
Headteacher