

Dear Parent/Carer,

Monday 18th May 2020

Coronavirus Update

Like other schools in England, we are beginning to make plans to reopen to Reception, year 1 and year 6 **should it be safe to do so**. Please be assured that our absolutely priority is the safety of our pupils and staff. Like you, the team at Grove House is desperate to be back to normal but the new normal is a long way off yet.

Reopening Update

Our approach to reopening school is to build provision up slowly and carefully and at this point, we can only welcome children from reception, year 1 and year 6. The total number of children in these year groups is 170 which should hopefully explain why we will need to build up slowly and carefully. It's important to be aware that things will be very different to life in school before Covid-19.

From 1st June, provision in school will be a continuation of child care rather than following the curriculum and having a learning focus. To give you an idea of how this will work, we will be making the following changes:

- Groups sizes of no more than 5 to begin with, to ensure pupils and staff remain socially distant.
- Pupil groups will not have any contact with any other pupil group or any other adult.
- Lunch will be taken in classrooms.
- Desks and learning areas will be set out at least 2 metres apart.
- Children will not be able to work together or play together as equipment and resources cannot be shared.
- Any equipment and resources used will be cleaned and a daily ready for the next day.
- Children will be given the same things to do at home as they are at school.
- School will operate staggered opening and collection times to ensure adults dropping off can be socially distant.
- School may need to finish slightly earlier each day to ensure enough time is given to ensure thorough cleaning takes places each day.

To assist us with our planning, we need to gather an idea of pupil numbers. If you are the parent of a child in reception, year 1 or year 6, you will receive a survey via text message to your phone today. We would ask you to complete the survey by noon on Wednesday to indicate if you would like to send your child back to school. Although schools have been asked to encourage pupils to return to school, we will not be issuing fixed penalty fines for non-attendance. Once we have an idea of numbers we will be in touch again with more details of how things will work.

I know parents will have lots of questions therefore we have put together a FAQ list with this letter. As always, we are available to answer your questions and talk through things with you. You can contact us in the usual ways.

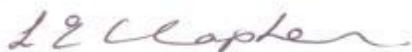
Other News

In much brighter news, Miss Doherty has now begun her maternity leave. She has done an amazing job in keeping going through more difficult working circumstances over the past weeks. We wish her lots of luck as she prepares to welcome her new arrival and I look forward to sharing that happy news with you all. In her place, we welcome to the team Mrs Ahmed. She will be covering year 1 up until the summer break. Mrs Ahmed previously taught at Crossley Hall so we know her very well - she is incredibly excited to join us.

We also say farewell to Mr Ingham. Following a rigorous recruitment process, Mr Ingham has successfully gained a position with West Yorkshire Fire Service. We think he will make a fantastic Fireman and wish him every success for the future. We welcome in his place Miss Shakespeare. She brings so much knowledge and experience to our pastoral team and we can't wait to introduce her to you all properly.

As more information is made available and as our plans become clearer I will keep you all updated. Thank you to all our families for their patience and support during these challenges time. If you have any questions or need to get in touch, please contact us on one of the contact methods which can be found at the bottom of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Clapham
(**Headteacher**)

Frequently Asked Questions - Reopening

My child is in one of the key year groups. Do I have to send them to school?

Many parents have already asked if they will be forced to send their child back to school. We have been asked to encourage a return to school for pupils in reception, year 1 and year 6 however we have also been instructed not to issue any fixed penalty fines for non-attendance. It is important that you feel comfortable with the decision you make to send your children back to school or not. We can only take children from reception, year 1 and year 6 classes at this point, along with the key worker children we have already been providing care for.

I am considering sending my child back to school. Can I see your risk assessments or talk to you separately about what precautions you are making?

Yes. We will be putting our risk assessments on our school website once they are finalised. This is such a detailed process that it is something that is taking a little time. Should you want to discuss anything with us in more detail on reading these, feel free to get in touch.

If I decide not to send my child back now, can I change my mind?

Yes. You may feel that the rate of infection and death rate is still too high and causing you concern. If you decide now that you don't want to send your child back on 1st June, you can contact us at a later date to discuss when you would feel more comfortable in allowing your child to return. It is important you feel happy and safe in the decision you make for you and your family.

Can I just send my child back to school on some of the days, for example Monday, Wednesday and Friday?

No. The advice we have been given to offer to parents all day every day to ensure the group is consistent as possible therefore we are unable to offer alternative childcare patterns.

Will you be offering breakfast club and afterschool clubs?

No. At this stage we are only able to offer care for children within the hours of the usual school day.

Why are the children in groups of 5 rather than groups of 15?

The government has given group sizes of 15 as a guide to schools. On measuring our classrooms, we do not feel we can take groups of this size whilst remaining socially distant. Part of being socially distant in a school is educating children around why this is so important and how we need to achieve this. If we start with group sizes of 5, then build up the group size safely, we believe we can be more consistent in doing this.

Can you guarantee our children will be social distant?

Even as adults, being socially distant is a totally new way of life. It's something we have to remind ourselves to do day by day. We cannot guarantee children will be 100% socially distant as they are so used to being close to the adults they trust. However, we can educate and remind them throughout the day. We will be doing plenty of handwashing and have ordered additional hand sanitiser which will be accessible in all learning spaces.

What if my child needs first aid?

If a child needs first aid whilst in school, first aiders will wear PPE including an apron, gloves and a face visor. This is to ensure both your child and the first aider are safe and protected.

Which teacher will my child have?

It is possible that your teacher will not have their usual class teacher or a teacher they are familiar with. This really depends on pupil numbers and the number of adults that will be available. If we do not have enough teachers, we will be allocating pupil groups to our very able teaching assistants. We are aiming to allocate two adults to each group of 5.

Which classroom will my child be in?

Once we know how many parents want their child to come back to school we can confirm which teacher they will have and which learning space they will use. They will continue to use this same learning space and the same teacher until we are advised that we can do otherwise.

Will my child be with their friendship group?

We will try our best to ensure this but we cannot promise they will. Once the pupil groups have been decided, we will be unable to make any changes.

What kind of things will school be doing to keep areas as clean as possible?

Children will be washing their hands regularly and surfaces will be wiped down regularly. We are also working with an external cleaning company to ensure we have enough cleaners and additional cleaning can be carried out through the day in places like our toilets and on all touch points such as door handles. We have also ordered even more hand sanitiser. At the end of each day, cleaners will carry out thorough cleaning of learning spaces and will be using industrial strength products.

Will my child be missing out if they don't come back yet?

No. Children in school will be doing the same learning tasks in school as they do at home. Provision in school will be focused on child care not on delivering the curriculum or new learning. We will be spending as much time as we can outside where it is easier to be socially distant and we have the fresh air around us.

My child is in year 6. What will you be doing to support their transition to high school?

This year, we are unable to carry out a visit to high school as we are unable to move between the different schools. We are writing a transition programme to support children moving to high school. Children will also be able to complete this programme at home.

Will I still get the meal vouchers if my child is coming to school?

No. If your child is in school, they will get a school dinner which will be free. This will be eaten with the other children in their group in their classroom base. If they remain at home, we will continue to issue meal vouchers.

My child is in another year group. When will then be coming back?

At the moment, we cannot confirm this. The government have been incredibly vague in their intentions to get all children back for at least a month before the summer break if feasible. Again safety is our priority. When we hear more about other year groups returning, we will let you know.

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Telephone: (01274) 636921 Email: office@grovehouseprimary.co.uk

I am concerned about my child catching up with lost learning time. How will you do this?

Class teachers and subject leaders have been busy working behind the scenes to begin to adjust our curriculum plans to ensure that when the focus returns to learning, we will be ready and be able to ensure our children cover everything they need to do by the time they leave us in year 6.

Will provision for Key Workers continue?

Yes. Children of key workers who are not in reception, year 1 or year 6 will be together in groups of 5. This provision will be run from Grove House Primary School building.

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

