



Grove House Infant and Nursery School

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Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 8th March following the period of lockdown since January 2021. We would like to thank you for all of your continued support and partnership working with our staff to maintain learning during this challenging time. The work and effort put in by our children, staff and you as parents / carers has been outstanding and will most definitely benefit your child in successfully returning to school.

This letter will outline all the necessary measures and arrangements we have put in place to enable this to happen and to promote a safe return to schools for pupils and our staff.

As was the case in September, we recognise that some parents may be feeling very anxious about their child's return to school and it is very important that everybody follows the guidance in this letter so we can keep each other safe.

We understand that children may be anxious too and we will address this within our bubbles / classes as the need arises. Pupils will be given the opportunity to talk about their feelings and worries and will be supported by all staff, on their return. We encourage you to discuss the return with your child and to keep communication high.

Bubbles / Classes

All children and staff are assigned to bubbles and these bubbles will continue to be separated within the school. In our school we will have 4 bubbles (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). Bubbles will continue not to mix at all during the school day.

The changes within the classroom environment which were in place in the Autumn Term to limit the amount of face-to-face contact and regular handwashing throughout the school day, as well as regular cleaning of the environment continue.

In the event that a bubble needs to close we will revert to remote learning as per our provision since January, and will inform you via our messaging service and provide printed learning packs as appropriate.

Hygiene

Pupils will wash their hands thoroughly (with soap and water) or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser gel often. Everyone will wash their hands on arrival at school, before eating, after coughing or sneezing, after visiting the toilet, after being outside and before going home.

We will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach when sneezing.



Unity Education Trust



Children will be encouraged not to touch their eyes, nose or mouth if they haven't washed their hands.

Face Coverings

In line with the Department for Education (DfE) return to school guidance from March 8th, staff must wear face coverings in all communal areas and corridors, and in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained. The DfE will be reviewing this expectation for schools at Easter and we will write to you again with any changes for the summer term.

Health

We will ask parents about their child's health on arrival at school. If they have any symptoms you will be asked to take them home immediately. It is essential that you or a registered family member are able to collect your child should they be required to be sent home.

Please ensure that your child does not come into school if they have symptoms, have tested positive in the last 10 days or have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test & Trace. Please report your child's absence in the usual way (by phoning the school office).

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they will be sent home. They must self-isolate for 10 days and should arrange to be tested. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms or tested positive.

If a symptomatic child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to another room where they will be looked after by a member of staff while they wait to be collected.

Staff will wear personal protective equipment if they are looking after a symptomatic child or dealing with a child requiring first aid who they need to be in close contact with.

Staff will go home immediately if they become ill at work with symptoms.

We will advise you if someone in your child's bubble has tested positive, and will let you know what you need to do next.

Arrival at School

For the safety of all children in our bubbles it is important that children arrive at school at the correct time and are waiting at the correct gate. Parents will not be allowed on school premises and will need to leave their children at the gate where they will be welcomed by an adult from their bubble.

It is important that all parents/carers wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting their child.

Arrival times are as follows:

Year 2: 8.40 – 8.50am at the gate near the Year 1 outdoor area

Year 1: 8.50 – 9.00am at the gate near the Year 1 outdoor area

Reception: 8.40 – 8.50am at the main gate

Nursery: 9.00am at the main gate

Whilst waiting to go into school your child and their siblings must stay with you at all times. For their own safety and the safety of others, please do not allow them to run around the carpark.

Only members of a single household should travel together to and from school. It is essential that people continue to socially distance at all times, avoid gathering in groups and leave the premises as soon as possible.

Please note that the back gate will remain locked and will not be an access point into school (sorry for any inconvenience).

What can my child bring to school?

It is very important that we limit the number of things that come in from home. Therefore, we ask that only these items come into school. No toys should be brought into school.

- Coat
- Sunhat (if required)
- Filled water bottle
- Lunchbox (if required)
- Bookbag

Lunch Arrangements (school specific updates required)

Children will be eating lunch in their bubbles. Year 1 and 2 will continue to eat in their classrooms and reception children will eat in the hall.

Through Universal Free School Meals all children within our school are entitled to a free school lunch. Please order your child's lunch in the usual way. Alternatively, your child may bring a packed lunch from home.

Uniform and PE Kit

School uniform should be worn every day. There is no requirement for clothes to be washed daily, your normal washing routine is fine. Please ensure that your child has their school sweatshirt/cardigan with them every day as windows will be open in classrooms to aid ventilation and it may get a little chilly.

PE kit should be worn to school on your child's PE day (class teacher's will be in touch to let you know which day). On these days children will need to wear black shorts, white t-shirt and trainers. It would also be advisable to wear their school sweatshirt/cardigan and jogging bottoms (over their shorts).

Breakfast Club

During this period of transitioning to a full school return we are unable to provide breakfast club but do hope that this can be resumed in the future. Please let the school office know if breakfast club is a facility that your child would use if it was available.

Communicating with School Staff

If you need to speak to a member of staff please phone or email the school office. We will ensure that the most appropriate member of staff responds to your query.

End of the School Day

When collecting your child from school it is important that you arrive at your allotted time. As mentioned previously it is essential that people continue to socially distance at all times, avoid gathering in groups and leave the premises as soon as you have collected your child.

It is important that all parents/carers wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting their child.

Pick up times are as follows:

Nursery: 12 noon at main gate

Reception: 2.50pm at main gate

Year 1: 3.00pm at the gate near the Year 1 outdoor area

Year 2: 3.05pm at main gate (please note change of gate from morning drop off)

Attendance

From March 8th, full attendance by pupils is expected, and we will be operating in line with all of our usual attendance procedures in line with Department for Education guidance.

We realise that this is a long letter with lots of information in it but hopefully it answers all of your questions. However, if you have any further questions please contact the school office by phone or email.

Over the next few days please keep checking your emails and messages as we may issue further information regarding our return, if changes need to be made.

We look forward to the children returning on Monday 8th March.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarah Charman
Executive Headteacher