



## Grove House Infant and Nursery School

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3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and hope that you have had a lovely summer holiday.

This letter is an update to the one we sent out at the end of last term. It will outline all the necessary measures and arrangements we have put in place to enable a safe return to schools for pupils and our staff.

As has been the case throughout this pandemic, 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 classes and assemblies 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.

The safety of our school and classroom environment and our expectations for regular handwashing throughout the school day, as well as regular cleaning of the environment, continue this term. From 19 July, the government have removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law **but expects and recommends** that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

We continue to encourage all children to wear face coverings when travelling on public or school transport, and will be asking all visitors to our school to also wear face coverings.

### 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.

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

### 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.



Unity Education Trust



Please ensure that your child does not come into school if they have symptoms or have tested positive in the last 10 days. 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 isolated and you will be asked to collect them immediately. They must self-isolate and should arrange to be tested.

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.

NHS Test and Trace will work with positive case(s) to identify close contacts.

### **Dropping Off / Picking Up Arrangements**

The front and back gate will open at 8.40am and will close at 8.50am and all children (except Nursery) should arrive during this time period. The gate near Year 1 will not be used. Please come through the gate with your child and the teachers will be near their classroom door to welcome you.

Reception children should be collected at 3.05pm and Year 1 & 2 children at 3.10pm. The front and back gates will be opened just before 3.05pm, please come and wait on the playground/EYFS area and your child will come out to meet you.

Arrangements for our reception children are different for the first two days but you will have been notified of this separately.

Nursery children should arrive at 9am and collected at 12 noon. The front gate will be unlocked at 9am. Please wait at the front of the school if you arrive before 9am. Once the gate opens please go through with your child and staff will welcome you at the door. Please wait by the gate at 12 and staff will bring your child out to you.

Arrangements for our new nursery children are different for the first week but you will have been notified of this separately.

Please do not allow your child to play on any of the play equipment or touch any of the resources whilst on school premises during drop off and pick up.

### **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

**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).

**Before School Club**

This provision is available from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September but must be booked and paid for in advance through Parent Pay at a cost of £2.50 per session. The session starts at 7.45am and runs through to the start of school. Please note that no food will be provided so please ensure that your child has breakfast before attending.

**Communicating with School Staff**

If you need to speak to a member of staff please phone (01362 694379) or email the school office ([office@grove.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@grove.norfolk.sch.uk)). We will ensure that the most appropriate member of staff responds to your query.

**Attendance**

From September 6<sup>th</sup>, full attendance by pupils is mandatory 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.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarah Charman  
Executive Headteacher