



## The Grove Primary School

The Grove  
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### Coronavirus Update

14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I did promise you an update but to be truthful there has been no additional Government guidance based on Sunday night's briefing which isn't what I was expecting.

The Government have suggested that we bring back our Year 6 with our Reception and Year 1 children and up until this point it has been a case of schools planning quickly without very little direction which was much the same position that we were in when it came to lockdown. It has been a very different way of working for staff, parents and children and a very worrying time too but I have to congratulate our school community for how supportive everyone has been in the pursuit of keeping everyone safe.

School has remained open for some children and teachers have worked diligently from March 20<sup>th</sup> not even having a proper Easter holiday; to ensure that key worker parents had access to essential childcare during the current situation. School is and will continue to remain open for these children. I understand that employers will be encouraging more parents to return to work but unfortunately, we are not in a position to accept new childcare requests.

Now the Government are asking schools to open on June 1<sup>st</sup> for more pupils when there is not the science to back up their decisions. They are asking children to **social distance**. A few points to consider in relation to social distancing from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

- You as parents will be aware that our school motto is 'We Care' so we have to keep distance from the children. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June what is the first thing that your child will want to do...hug their teacher and hug their friends. It wouldn't be fair to say sorry you're not allowed to do this anymore.
- Learning for our youngest children would be without the choice that they would usually have as the only way that we could even contemplate social distancing would be to sit them at the desk. What 4, 5 or 6-year-old would be able to find enjoyment in that?
- Activities that children would complete would not follow the usual curriculum as we have been advised to remove any soft furnishing resources and those such as lego, toy cars, instruments etc would not be practical to have in the classroom as they would have to be cleaned thoroughly after each child has used them to minimise the spread of germs.
- Year 6 would not spend their last few weeks together due to social distancing would spend their time in 3 separate classrooms in order to maintain a distance of 2 metres.
- Children may not necessarily be looked after by their own teacher as we would continue to only have a skeleton staff in school
- Outdoor play wouldn't be with their friends but spent playing in isolation as would lunch times and play times.
- It also presents issues for those families who have brothers and sisters in other year groups as the only year groups that the Government would like us to try and accommodate are Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 at the minute.





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- It is thought that social distancing will contain the virus but with the best will in the world we know how quickly infection spreads through a school no matter how well we manage social distancing or how much cleaning takes place!

Other aspects would have to be considered such as: staggered pick up and drop off times, increased cleaning routines and as I have mentioned limiting the number of children accessing classrooms at one time.

**If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [Government guidance](#) Please read this information carefully.**

I and the staff would love nothing more than to welcome all of our children, staff and families to be all back together and back to normal but it simply isn't safe to do so as the science hasn't been proven. What I would ask you to consider, as parents, is would you be happy for your child to come back to school knowing all of these restrictions are in place? Your children are precious, we admire and are proud of how well families have worked together to achieve during these difficult times and we will do everything that we can in order to make sure that school is as safe as possible and that home learning activities are still in place.

The new message from Boris Johnson is 'Stay Alert' but I would urge you to still consider the 'Stay Home' message in order to keep your children safe. Ultimately, I do not want parents to be pressured in returning their children to school and parents will not be penalised for keeping their children safe at home.

For those families who have children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 we would like to collect your views and we have sent a survey via text as it is important to hear your views. I would ask you to be as open and honest as possible when you complete this survey. I would also ask you to check with other families that they have completed their survey too.

As always, we will await further guidance about procedures and protocols for the opening of schools to more pupils in order to keep everyone safe in our school community. When this happens, I will share this information with you as soon as I have it.

The school office, school mobile and email can still be used to reach members of staff as well as ask any questions that you may have regarding any aspect of school life.

Thank you for your continued patience and, as always, your continued support.

*Bernadette*

