



## The Grove Primary School

The Grove  
Oakfield Lane  
Consett

County Durham DH8 8AP

**Head Teacher:** Bernadette Atkinson



**Email:** [thegrove@durhamlearning.net](mailto:thegrove@durhamlearning.net)

**Website:** [www.grove.durham.sch.uk](http://www.grove.durham.sch.uk)

**Telephone:** 01207 502938

**Friday, 17 July 2020**

**September 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, thank you for your patience while we have given significant thought and effort as to how we can reopen school safely and more widely for children in September.

The school year is drawing to a close in a way that none of us could have predicted. The academic year of 2019/20 has been a very different one for us all and has meant for all of us; a different way of working whether you are a child, parent, member of staff and our Governors too.

On behalf of the staff and Governors, I wish to thank you for your support of our online learning tasks and for the positive feedback which we have received to date. I wish to particularly commend the children for their efforts during what has been a very challenging time for all of us. Our children are a credit to us and have demonstrated just they have been able to adapt to different learning opportunities and different teachers too! Well done to you as parents who have risen to a very different challenge and have kept in touch by sending photos, activities and for our Early Years families' communication via Tapestry too. I also wish to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the staff in both facilitating remote learning and in helping to keep school open for childcare, for those families who needed to access it since March. I am deeply grateful to them all and some members of staff have had a very different couple of months working with children of different ages and abilities in their keyworker bubble.

Now to look towards September and consider what this will look like, as we are excited to plan for a return to school for all pupils.

Senior leaders and The Governing Body have been working tirelessly to create detailed plans to make sure we can safely welcome all of our children back in September. Thank you, once again, to you, as parents and carers for the patience, support and kind comments during these past few difficult months while we strive to continue to support all in our school community.

Detailed risk assessments have been carried out in line with current government guidance to ensure that protective and safety measures are in place for all staff and children when they return to school on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020**. Our school site will look very different and routines will be somewhat different too. Staff will support children with these new routines and systems in order to keep everyone safe.





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### Government guidance has asked us to consider:

- stagger the times of any movement around the school as well as start and finish times
- keep children within their class groups/bubbles
- not allow groups of children to mix with each other at all
- encourage children to maintain social distancing where possible.

A lot of work has taken place behind the scenes to ensure this guidance is in place. We cannot ensure that all children will socially distance but have taken steps to minimise the risk so that staff will endeavour to keep children and themselves safe.

We have also updated certain policies in line with COVID-19 measures and these policies can be found [here](#) (Behaviour and Additional Safeguarding Guidance).

New Government guidance was released on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. From then we have been working very closely with the Local Authority to decide what is right for our school and our site. The Local Authority has provided risk assessments which has allowed senior leaders and governors to consider the health and safety risks for children and staff at all levels. After carrying out robust risk assessments, we have decided that the following approach would be best for all at The Grove Primary School.

In line with guidance and to ensure our school site is as safe as possible, we have had to make some initial changes to the school day. These will be reviewed in line with any new Government and Local Authority guidance.

### Entrance and Dismissal times:

In order to stagger children into the school building, we would ask that those children in Reception to Year 6 arrive strictly at their allocated times (please see next page). In line with social distancing measures and risk assessments, parents will not be permitted to enter the school building and we remind parents that they can contact school via telephone 01207 502938 or via email [enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk)

We would also ask parents who need to drop their children off to do so at the pupil entrance at the allocated times for their child. Parents can also collect from the pupil entrance and we would ask parents to adhere to strict social distancing guidelines at all times when picking up and dropping their child off. Parents are asked not to arrive earlier to collect their child or be in the vicinity while other children are being picked up/dropped off as it does put others at risk. We would also ask parents do not collect children from other families. If you are late for dropping off or collecting your child, you must contact the school office to arrange alternative arrangements.





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## Arrival and dismissal arrangements from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Class	Entrance point	Entrance time	Dismissal time
Nursery (am)	<b>New entrance up the Early Years' Garden ramp</b>	8.45am	11.15am
Nursery (pm)		12.00pm	2.30pm
Nursery (30 hours)		8.45am	2.30pm
Reception	<b>New entrance through previous green Nursery door</b>	Those families with surname initial A-M at 8.30am.	2.30pm
Year 1	Normal pupil entrance.		2.40pm
Year 2		2.40pm	
Year 3	Through playground and to school via white hall doors.	Those families with surname initial N-Z at 8.40am.	2.40pm
Year 4			2.40pm
Year 5	Through green door between Year 5 and Year 6 classroom (by Bernadette's office).		2.40pm
Year 6			2.40pm

### Inside school:

Children will be arranged in their class groups/bubbles with their teachers. These groups/bubbles will follow a strict timetable for staggering breaks, lunches and play times so that children do not mix.

There will be no before or after-school provision initially but we hope to introduce Breakfast Club from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. We are anticipating that Breakfast Club would be run from 8am and children would be sat and socially distanced with children from their bubbles. We will introduce a strict booking system to support our risk assessments. This will be costed at £1 for children not in receipt of Free School Meals and free for those in receipt of Free School Meals.

We are still looking at possible dates to introduce After School provision and how we would be able to manage this provision. We will not be running any additional enrichments clubs (eg Code, Art and Crafts and Drama etc.) during the first half term. We will review this in October and make a decision for the remainder of the Autumn term.

Parents will not be allowed to gather on the playground or enter the school building. You will have to communicate with staff by telephone and call the office to make an appointment. Only one parent or carer is permitted to bring their child to school and collect them at the allocated time. If your child receives medication, we would ask you to contact the school office to arrange drop off and collection if necessary.





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Staff will not wear any PPE – unless for intimate care, first aid or if a child/adult develops symptoms.

Movement in corridors will be different and as far as possible, there will be continue to be a one-way system with social distance markings.

Activities will involve more independent learning tasks and teachers will base themselves at the front of the classroom to maintain social distance guidelines.

Your child will have their own learning areas and will need to stay in this space – they will have to, where possible and be supported to socially distance from one another.

Classrooms will have all unnecessary furniture, equipment and all soft furnishings removed.

The children will only be allowed to use individually allocated stationery and a small selection of activities and resources as they are not allowed to share with others.

There will be no whole school assemblies when we return to school.

### Curriculum

We have adapted our Curriculum to support children's return to school. There will continue to be a greater emphasis on PSHE please see our website for resources to support you during the holidays [here](#).

We will also have to carefully assess gaps in learning to support all children to catch up while maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum.

You may already be aware that DfE propose to continue with national assessments for the academic year 2020/21 apart from the new Early Years baseline assessment. For more information please see the Primary Assessment section [here](#).

### Uniform

Children will be expected to wear full school uniform and bring their P.E. kits on the first day back. If you would like to order uniform you can do so via <https://totstoteams.com/>

For those families wishing to access our swap shop, please contact Rachel Crowe (we are hoping to have our swap shop open again mid/end of August).





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### School Meals

If your child receives a free school meal or you pay for school meals, the meal will be served to your child in their class base (if they are in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6). We would ask that children bringing their own lunch to school bring this to school in a disposable plastic/paper bag each day. The bag would go into the bin after they finished their lunch.

School dinners will cost £2.10, from September, and can be paid via ParentPay for those children who are not in receipt of Free School Meals in Nursery (30 hours), Year 3,4,5 and 6. School Meals will remain free to those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

### Hygiene

To maintain social distancing and maintain appropriate levels of cleanliness, the start and finish times of the school day will be staggered (see entrance and dismissal times).

Children should not bring anything from home apart from: packed lunch (see school meals section) a water bottle, a coat or sun hat depending upon the weather. We would ask that sun cream be applied- if necessary- before a child comes to school.

We would ask children not to bring book bags (only P.E. bag to be brought and left in school on child's peg). to school and will not send reading books home initially but we will have more information about homework routines in September.

Strict hygiene rules will continue to be implemented. Children will frequently wash their hands with soap and hot water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly. They will sanitise their hands on arrival at the setting each morning and after playing outside. They will wash and dry their hands frequently before lunch and after coughing or sneezing.

### Illness

If a child becomes ill during the school day, we will ask that they are collected immediately by a parent and are taken home.

Children who display coronavirus type symptoms or children who live with someone who has coronavirus will not be able to attend school. Isolation and self-isolation rules MUST be followed.

If a child or an adult in their group is confirmed as having the virus, the whole group including the staff working with that group, will be sent home immediately to self-isolate in line with Public Health England advice.

Once again, thank you for the overwhelming support during these very difficult and strange times. We do anticipate this will be how we return in September but this could be subject to change. Please trust that we shall share any necessary changes in as much time as possible in order to support your family routines from September.





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## School term dates for next academic year 2020/21

Term	Start	End
Autumn 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020 <b>(school closed from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October until 2<sup>nd</sup> November)</b>
Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 <b>(school closed Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020)</b>
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021 <b>(school closed Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021)</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 <b>(school closed Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021)</b>
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 <b>(school closed Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021)</b>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2021

I hope that all of our families have a wonderful summer break together, take care, stay safe and look after one another.

*Bernadette*





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