



The Grove Primary School

The Grove
Oakfield Lane
Consett

County Durham DH8 8AP

Head Teacher: Bernadette Atkinson



Email: thegrove@durhamlearning.net

Website: www.grove.durham.sch.uk

Telephone: 01207 502938

4th March 2021

Whole School Reopening- 8th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be aware from previous newsletters, the government announced plans for all year groups to return to school full time as from March 8th. School attendance will return to being mandatory. We are very excited about this prospect and are looking forward to seeing all of our families again very much.

Although the risk of transmission of Coronavirus has been reduced, we still need to continue to put measures in place in order to make our school as safe as we possibly can for all.

Before these arrangements are set out, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their understanding and support since the lockdown imposed upon schools in January. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare and online learning.

Thinking now to our return next week, we have a detailed plan to make sure we can welcome everyone back safely whilst ensuring that The Grove Primary School remains a caring and happy place for children to learn.

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. Please see our risk assessment [here](#). We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement ways of operating to ensure we open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting. Some of the precautions we will continue with are:

- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered (children do not need to bring their own hand sanitiser to school).
- Minimising contact between staff and pupils within and around the school. Staff will have the option of wearing face coverings in school.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the school.
- Increased and enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and other shared equipment.





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- Staggering playtimes, lunchtimes and pick-up and drop-off times to limit contact between people (see table of drop off and pick up times below).
- Asking parents to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent/carer per household and would ask that no additional adults wait on Oakfield Lane while children are dropped off. **Parents are also asked to wear a face covering if entering the playground or coming to the main entrance.**

Arrival and dismissal arrangements from Monday 8th March 2021

The only change to entrances times, from Autumn term, is that we are asking Nursery children and siblings to arrive promptly at 8.30am. We are asking that all other families wait to their allocated time to limit the footfall/vehicles on Oakfield Lane. We would ask families not to arrive before their allocated time. If you are a Nursery parent and arrive when the gates are closed, we would ask that you queue and maintain social distancing on the pavement beside the gates.

Class	Entrance point	Entrance time	Dismissal time
Nursery (am) Nursery (pm) Nursery (30 hours)	The Early Years' Garden ramp	8.30am 12.00pm 8.30am	11.15am 2.45pm 2.45pm
Reception	Through Green Reception door	Those families with surname initial A-M at 8.35-8.45am.	2.50pm for families A-M
Year 1	Normal pupil entrance		
Year 2	Through playground and to school via white hall doors	Those families with surname initial N-Z at 8.40-8.50am.	3.00pm for families N-Z
Year 3			
Year 4			
Year 5	Through green door between Year 5 and Year 6 classroom (by Bernadette's office)		
Year 6			

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 with staff. 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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Arrangements in school:

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

Breakfast/After School Club:

Breakfast Club will run for those children who were allocated a place during autumn term. If you require a place, please contact the school office. 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.

After School Club will continue to run to 4pm in line with risk assessments until the Easter holidays. The provision for Breakfast and After School Club will be reviewed the week beginning 22nd March. Those families who had a place, during autumn term, will be allocated a place. If you do not require a place, please contact the school office as we have families waiting for a place. A strict booking system applies and a booking form will be sent out by text each Friday.

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 the Easter holidays and make a decision for the Summer term.

Uniform

Children will be expected to wear full school uniform and bring their P.E. kits on the first day back. We do- however- understand that only essential shops are open so if you are unable to source uniform we can make allowances for the remainder of this term. 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 either on 01207 502938 or the school mobile.

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. If a child brings a lunch box, this must be a plastic box and not a cloth based box/bag.

School dinners cost £2.10 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.





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Equipment

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). Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 can continue to bring their reading book bags every Friday to school. They will be sent home each Monday.

Returning Equipment

We would kindly ask that if your child has borrowed any devices (laptops) or equipment (headphones, router etc.) from school that these are returned with them on Monday 8th March. Your child will need to take it into class with them – please do not drop anything off at the school office.

LFD Tests

Please be aware that staff at The Grove Primary School, along with all primary schools nationally are participating in LFD (Lateral Flow Device) testing. This is part of the government's drive to identify and isolated anyone who could be carrying (and therefore passing on) the covid19 virus, in order to further limit community transmission and drive infection rates down. Parents should be aware that this has the potential for more of our year groups to close if asymptomatic carriers are identified, as they and close contacts will be required to isolate by NHS test and trace. We would ask parents to have a back up plan for children isolating should a year group/bubble is asked to close.

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.





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School term dates for next academic year 2020/21

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

I appreciate that for those families who are not in school at the moment, the prospect of returning may once again feel quite daunting. Please be reassured that the systems and routines that are now the norm, have not phased the children at all. Please contact us either via Tapestry or the school office if we can support in any way that we can or if you have any questions too.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our families back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our school. We would very much appreciate your support with this.

Bernadette



