

Granby Primary School

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Wednesday 3rd March, 2021

Return to School: Monday 8th March

Dear Families,

I hope you are as excited as we are about the government's decision to reopen schools to all pupils from Monday 8th March.

As this date draws closer, I would like to share some important information with you about our reopening plans. Whilst the majority of arrangements are exactly the same as they were in the autumn term, some details have changed. I have outlined all the key information for you in the body of this message. I will also be updating and sharing our Return to School Handbook by the end of the week, which will contain further detail about everything you need to know. Please can I ask that you read this information carefully so that everything runs smoothly next Monday.

Health and Safety

The government have said that it is safe for all children and staff to return to school. That is not to say that the threat of Coronavirus has gone away altogether, rather that schools' stringent control measures are sufficient to reduce the risk of infection to an acceptable level. Scientific data continues to indicate that children are less likely than adults to catch Coronavirus and that if they do, they are unlikely to become seriously unwell. On the basis of this information, you are encouraged to send your children back to school next week.

In a change from previous practice, all adults working in school will now be required to wear face masks at all times except when they are working in their own class bubbles. [Primary school children are not required to wear face masks.] This is to reduce the risk of adult-to-adult infection. For the same reason, I would like to insist that all adults accessing the school site wear face masks at all times, unless they are exempt from doing so for medical reasons. It is the responsibility of the whole school community to keep one another safe.

I would also like to confirm that the majority of staff are taking twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests in order to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 and ensure that anyone infected self-isolates for a period of ten days. We are fortunate that so far none of these tests have been positive. However, I want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to reduce to risk to everyone in our school community.

In addition to wearing masks, it is essential that everyone accessing the school site adheres to our social distancing measures. We are returning to a staggered start and end to the school day to reduce the number of adults in school at any time. We are also reinstating the queuing areas, which will be clearly signposted so that you know where to wait. Staff will do their utmost to admit and dismiss children as quickly and efficiently as possible. Please support them by waiting in your designated areas, maintaining a 2m distance from one another.

Practical Arrangements

Morning nursery starts at 8:45am and finishes at 11:45am; afternoon nursery starts at 12:30pm and finishes at 3:30pm; children accessing 30 hours' provision stay all day. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 start at 8:30am and finish at 2:55pm. Year 3 and Year 4 start at 8:45am and finish at 3:15pm. Year 5 and Year 6 start at 9:00am and finish at 3:30pm. Please do not arrive early or late. Where siblings are in different year groups, they may all enter through the youngest child's door at their start time and all leave through the oldest sibling's door at their finish time to remove the need for adults to wait on site. Please do not gather in groups on site or on the streets outside school.

Gates, queues and entrances remain the same as before Christmas. These are detailed in full inside the handbook you will be sent.; they are also clearly signposted on the playgrounds. Please make sure you drop off and collect from your designated area. Children will wash their hands a minimum of three times a day; they will also sanitize their hands a minimum of three times a day. Children will be kept in year groups bubbles throughout the school day, just as they were before lockdown. They will not mix with children from other bubbles.

Children should wear normal school uniform. On PE days, we request that children come to school wearing the PE kit so that they do not need to change their clothes. A reminder of which classes have PE on which days will be included in the Return to School Handbook. Details of what constitutes correct school uniform, including acceptable PE kit, can be found on our school website. Please ensure that children's clothes are labelled clearly with their name and class so that these can be returned to them if misplaced.

We ask that children bring only what they absolutely need to school and do not bring in any unnecessary items. Please ensure that children arrive at school with essentials such as lunch boxes and book bags at the start of the day, as we will not be able to accept these items via the office. This is to reduce the need for office staff to cross bubbles in order to deliver late items. Where a child forgets their packed lunch, a school dinner will be provided for them. Children will never be 'told off' for forgetting anything!

Wraparound care is available for any families who need it. Both Breakfast Club and Camelot Care will operate as normal. Any who already use this service, should continue doing so in the same way. Our opening hours have not changed: children can be dropped off from 7:45am in the morning and must be collected by 5:30pm in the evening. Payment for extended services should be made in advance via ParentMail. If you would like to enquire about wraparound care, please call and speak to the office. Spaces are still available.

Children's engagement with remote learning has been brilliant over the past two months. This means that their learning will be able to continue uninterrupted when they return to school next week. Teachers will be setting aside time each day to help children think about and bounce back from any adverse effects of living through a pandemic and to offer support with their mental health and wellbeing. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact us and we will do whatever we can to help.

I think that is everything you need to know in order to facilitate a problem-free return to school on Monday 8th March. Further information will be provided in the Return to School Handbook, which I hope to share by the end of the week. As always, if you have any questions or queries about

anything in this message or that I haven't covered, please do call us on 0116 2298160 and one of our friendly office staff will be happy to help you in any way they can.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding through these difficult times. I am encouraged that the end seems to be in sight and excited about being able to welcome all children back to school where they belong next week.

Best regards,

Mr Cross