



Children are at the centre of everything we do

Thursday 4 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Return to School – Monday 8 March

Following the Government’s announcements last week, we are really looking forward to welcoming back all children to school next Monday. I am sure many of you have been counting down the days, but I also acknowledge that some families will be apprehensive at the prospect of a full return to school.

I thought it would be useful to remind you of some of the practicalities for children returning to school, which will support a smooth transition for you and your child/ren.

Practicalities for Children Returning to School

- School re-opens on Monday 8 March and **all** children are expected to return;
- Children will need to wear school uniform - this consists of dark green pullover or cardigan; grey shorts or trousers, skirt or pinafore dress; white or green polo shirts, shirts, blouses and black shoes. All children should have a pair of indoor shoes and outdoor shoes. If children have outgrown their black shoes and shoe shops are still closed, then a pair of **plain** trainers can be used instead.
- Children will be able to use their school bags and book bags;
- Children can bring in a small labelled sanitiser bottle and a box of tissues for their own use;
- Children can return reading and library books to school;
- Children will need to bring in their PE kit and trainers;
- Classroom based resources such as books and games will be used and shared within the class but will be regularly cleaned – pupils will be able to take books home;
- Please note the timings of the school day to ensure a staggered start and finish to support social distancing;

Nursery	9.00 - midday
Nursery (30 Hours)	9.00 - 3.00pm
Reception	9.00 - 3.10pm
Year 1	9.00 - 3.10pm
Year 2	9.00 - 3.10pm
Year 3	8.45 - 3.00pm
Year 4	8.45 - 3.00pm
Year 5	8.45 - 3.00pm
Year 6	8.45 - 3.00pm

- The arrangements already in place for dropping off and picking up your child/ren will continue;
- Children who have inhalers and epi pens - please return these labelled and in date to school on Monday.

Lunches

Children will be able to bring in their own packed lunch (no nuts) **or** order a school packed lunch or a school hot meal.

If your child/ren does not access school dinners, they will need to bring in a packed lunch (no nuts) each day.

As before Christmas, hot school dinners will be offered on a Monday, Wednesday and a Friday and a school packed lunch can be accessed on a Tuesday and a Thursday.

As the school kitchen has been closed since Christmas, there will be no hot dinners served on Monday 8 March, so that the kitchen staff have time to audit and order fresh food, ready for Wednesday's hot dinners. Child/ren who would have had a hot dinner on the Monday will order a school packed lunch.

Snacks (no nuts)

Please can I remind you all that your child/ren need to bring in a healthy snack. Early Years and KS1 are offered a piece of fruit of each day as part of the Government's scheme. However, you may want to provide them with an additional snack.

We would suggest – rice cakes, bread sticks, a bagel, fruit (fresh or dried)

COVID 19 measures at Greenway

The COVID protective measures that we have in place at Greenway are in line with Government guidance and remain the same as before. In summary:

- Pupils and staff will remain in their year group bubbles;
- Regular hand washing and sanitising will continue throughout the school day. As stated above, children can bring in a labelled small bottle of hand sanitiser for their own use;
- All staff in school are undertaking tests twice weekly using a Lateral Flow Device kit at home;
- All staff are wearing a face mask when they are not in their class bubble or office;
- We have now organised two staff rooms in the school to minimise contact amongst staff;
- Regular cleaning of surfaces and equipment will continue throughout the school day;
- All tables need to be forward facing and two pupils must be seated side by side, facing forwards;
- Staggered drop off and pick up arrangements will continue to support social distancing;
- Classroom based resources such as books and games will be used and shared within the class but will be regularly cleaned – pupils will be able to take books home;
- There will be lots of ventilation, with open windows and doors;
- There will be no large gatherings such as assemblies and pupils will not move around the school.

We all have a responsibility to take steps in helping reduce the spread of coronavirus. With this in mind, all families are required (unless exempt) to adhere to the following points to ensure a safe arrival and departure at school for all involved:

- Only **one** parent or guardian should drop off and pick up their child/children to reduce numbers outside school;
- Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household in your journey to and from school and whilst waiting;

- Refrain from lengthy face-to-face conversation with staff or other families - use digital communication methods during lockdown where at all possible;
- Go straight home after dropping and/or collecting your child/children;
- **All parents who drop off/pick up their child/ren and come onto the school site to do so wear face masks.** This also includes those parents/carers who drop off at Breakfast Club and who pick up from Waccy and after school clubs.
- Please may I also remind you that when you are waiting on the school grounds to collect your child/ren, any siblings already collected do need to stay next to you and not run around the school grounds. You will appreciate that we are trying to keep children in their class bubbles during the school day and we do not want to encourage any mixing of these bubbles once school has finished.

Remote Learning offer

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team requested our school advisor to review our current remote learning offer. We organised a half day remote visit where our school advisor spoke to a range of stakeholders, including children at school, staff, governors and the leadership team and some parents. She also reviewed our Remote Learning Policy, our Remote Learning offer (both on the website) and she had sight of Parent Forum minutes of the meeting where the school's remote learning offer had been a focus for discussion.

I am pleased to say that the report states *'The findings from this visit indicate that the school's remote learning offer is robust and very well-received by all stakeholders'*. Parents in particular felt that, *'all teachers and teaching assistants are onboard with leaders' vision for remote education and they felt that this meant that staff are 'going the extra mile' for their children'*

I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone on behalf of the governors and the senior leadership team.

Curriculum

We will continue teaching a full broad and balanced curriculum. A key focus will be on children's emotional well-being, particularly around their socialisation with their peers. We will also have a greater emphasis on English and Maths across the school, as well as reading and phonics particularly in the Early Years (Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) for the next three weeks. There will be a strong emphasis on identifying gaps in learning and retrieval of previous learning.

Breakfast Club and Waccy

Our wrap around care will commence from Monday 8 March. Guidance is clear that children can break their class bubbles to attend this provision **provided this is managed within small groups**. Parents dropping off and picking up their children from Breakfast Club or Waccy will be allowed onto the school site. However, please may I remind you that no parents should be driving into the school's grounds, unless they have permission from me. All parents on the school site need to be wearing a mask.

Mrs Anna Klimaszewski has with regret resigned from her position as Waccy leader. Anna had held this position for over six years. It was a very difficult decision for her to make and I know you all will wish her well. If you would like to contribute to her leaving gift then please make a small donation using the School Gateway payment system by Friday 19th March. We wish to avoid any cash coming into school.

Extra-curricular activities/clubs (both in and out of school)

The clubs that were on offer before Christmas will resume from next week.

As requested by the Government I would repeat their guidance which provides that schools should advise '*...parents to limit the numbers of different wraparound providers they access as far as possible*' and that parents should '*...seek assurance that the providers (they use) are carefully considering their own protective measures, and only use those providers that can demonstrate this*'.

Finally.....

We are still in a national lockdown and the only real change is that children will be going back to school next Monday. I am aware of a number of families at Greenway who are arranging playdates. Please may I remind you that as a school we are doing everything we can do to provide a safe, COVID secure place to support your children and I would urge you to reconsider any such arrangements you may have put in place. Whilst children may see each other within their bubbles at school the guidelines currently do not allow for individuals/families to meet inside or outside unless it is on a 1 to 1 basis for a few more weeks.

I know that you appreciate that we all need to support the measures in place as best as we can to ensure the safety of us all and I would appreciate everyone's cooperation in this matter so that we can all be safe by reducing social contacts and the mixing of families.

Please rest assured that all the procedures we currently have in place with regards to good and effective hygiene will remain in place. Last term the children and staff were brilliant in consistently washing their hands and taking part in the cleaning of equipment and tables. If you are able to do so, I would urge you to supply a named small bottle of hand sanitiser to complement our procedures if at all possible, please.

On behalf of my staff, we are all looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday!

Regards

Katharine Ellwood
Headteacher