



Grade-Ruan C of E School

Ruan Minor
Helston
Cornwall
TR12 7JN

Tel: 01326 290613

e-mail: head@grade-ruan.cornwall.sch.uk

website: www.grade-ruan.cornwall.sch.uk

Headteacher: Louise Jones

Dear parents

Welcome back to school and back to a very unusual school year!

We are so looking forward to seeing all of our children back at school from Monday. As you know there have been lots of changes and updates all through the summer that we've been keeping an eye on but our staff are ready, classrooms are prepared and we have lots of fun learning planned for the autumn term.

As I mentioned at the end of the summer term, because of the Covid restrictions, the school will not run the same way as it usually does; our aim is to keep school as normal as possible but we have put several restrictions in place to ensure the safety of our children and staff including the list below:

- Visitors will be strictly by appointment only and where this is necessary, eg school nurse, PPE must be worn and school guidance followed.
- The children will be reminded to 'socially distance' and will keep to class 'bubbles'.
- Children will have an allocated table space; all tables will be forward facing or screened.
- We will continue to model and teach the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Playtimes and lunch times will either be staggered, or classes will be in different areas of the school.
- Children will eat lunches in their classrooms before playing in their class bubble groups. Lunches can be ordered in the usual way and will be delivered to the classrooms.
- Toilets will be allocated to key stage bubbles.
- All equipment and resources will be sanitised and stored for three days before being passed to the next group.
- Regular cleaning and sanitising will take place in addition to normal cleaning.

We are offering breakfast club but to be able to do this we must ask parents request a place one day in advance as we have to ensure we have the correct staffing levels to prevent mixing bubble classes. Breakfast club will run from 8:00 am.

The first few days of school will be focussed on the children's wellbeing with lots of fun activities to get them into the swing of being back at school. We will ensure they feel safe, confident and happy to learn. We will be assessing the children (not testing!) to see where they are and what their next steps of learning will be and we will then plan our teaching to ensure they continue to make progress and catch up where necessary. We will continue to offer a broad, balanced curriculum with the full range of subjects; we will share the class themes with you via Class Dojo and the newsletters.

Outside of the school building

As all of our children will be returning to school and we are still required to socially distance, we face the challenge of overcrowding, especially as our school is small and the road outside narrow.





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We are asking you to help us by lining up outside of the school gates with your children at the allocated times (see table below). The double gates will be opened and the children will come into the school playground and line up where they will be welcomed by a member of staff in your child's class bubble. This will be in place to reduce the number of people on the school site in the interest of infection control. We ask that parents refrain from any gathering at the school gates.

On entering the building each child will be asked to wash their hands immediately and then go straight to the space allocated to them in the classroom.

Once inside the school

Tables will be spaced apart and children will have their own set of resources on their tables. There will be marked areas and signage throughout the school as reminders of social distancing. Some areas may be cordoned off with tape. Some staff may be wearing PPE equipment.

Children will wash their hands frequently, but particularly before and after leaving the room, after using any equipment, being outside, before and after eating (as well as the usual toileting routines). Children will be encouraged where possible not to touch their faces or to put objects in their mouths. It will help enormously if you discuss this with your child to help them to prepare for new classroom routines. It will not be possible to allow pupils to hug or have contact with any other children in their class or to socialise with pupils from the opposite key stage even at playtimes or lunchtimes. We will introduce alternate greeting methods and displays of affection and kindness.

Behaviour principles

(Please refer to the new addendum to the Behaviour Policy on our website)

In light of the need for children to behave differently when they return to school, and the new systems we have put in place to support that, we have made changes to our behaviour policy. In brief they are outlined below:

- following any altered routines for arrival or departure
- following school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- following instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school
- moving around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing)
- expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- telling an adult if you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus
- rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- amended expectations about breaks or play times
- use of toilets
- clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person

Uniform





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We encourage children to wear school uniform where possible as this will give the children an element of normality, however we understand that this may not be feasibly practical if you cannot wash and dry the uniform daily. Please do not send in PE kits. Children should wear either trainers or pumps that they can exercise in safely and comfortably. Your child's teachers will tell you when it is a PE day, your child may come to school in comfortable joggers etc and trainers on those days.

Symptoms

If any pupil or member of staff displays symptoms (continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste and sense of smell) they will be isolated. Children will be accompanied whilst we contact parents to collect them. A home testing kit will be provided and the result of that test communicated to school. If the test is positive, guidance states that we should close the bubble group immediately at this point.

End of the day

In order to prevent children walking in groups we will stagger the leaving times of our pupils by 5 seconds so that maintaining a safe social distance is possible. No parent/carer will be able to collect or drop off pupils from another family. It will inevitably take longer than usual for children to leave school so please bear with us!

A brief reminder of how you can help us to keep our staff and your children safe:

- Parents are responsible for their own social distancing when dropping off at the school gate.
- Make sure packed lunches are easy for your child to unwrap. This must include a bottle of water as we will be unable to provide containers for drink. Also, please provide a piece of fruit for snack time. No hot school lunches will be available in the first instance. If your child requires a school packed lunch these can be ordered in the usual way.
- Make sure your child's uniform has clothes they can manage themselves - e.g. elasticated trousers rather than zips and buttons. Pupils will be encouraged to wear school uniform unless this is not feasibly practical.
- On sunny days, apply suncream to your child before they come to school; members of staff will not be allowed to do this. Please supply a sun hat as we hope to be outside for more time than usual.
- Talk your child through the changes they can expect. We will send photographs of the classrooms once they have been set up so that you can show them to your children.
- Arrive at the school gate with your child at the time specified to avoid a crowd outside the school. Please do not bring any other children to the meeting point unless they are attending. Do not bring children other than those in your family.
- Ensure long hair is tied back.
- Do not allow children to bring toys or personal belongings to school; a book bag and packed lunch is all that is needed.
- Send children with a pack or box of tissues to leave in school.
- Please inform staff at the gate about the health of your child and other family members and if any household member is unwell with possible Covid symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and/or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) do not send your child to school.





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Please see the table below for final guidance on start and finishing times. **YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS WILL POST MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIFIC CLASSES ON DOJO.**

	Start time/ end time	Drop off/ Pick up area	Notes
Rose (Infant Bubble)	9:10 – 3:10	Outside school gates- double gates will be open	Staff will welcome the children and escort them into their class. At the end of the day, staff will bring the children back out to you.
Tamarisk Class (Junior Bubble)	9:00 – 3:00	Outside school gates- double gates will be open. Children to enter the playground and line up.	Staff will welcome the children and escort them into their class. At the end of the day, staff will bring the children back out to you.
Socoa	9:00 – 3:00	Outside school gates- double gates will be open. Children to enter the playground and line up.	Staff will welcome the children and escort them into their class. At the end of the day, children will be dismissed and meet parents at the gate or walk home (if permission is given).
Breakfast Club	8:00am – start of school	Come to hall doors & wait outside	A member of staff will welcome the children in and direct them to the appropriate space

I do appreciate that this is a lot of information for the start of a new school year.





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Although the school and classrooms may look a little different from normal, the children will be warmly welcomed in to school in the same way and I am sure will soon settle into the new routine. We are going use Class Dojo as a way to keep in touch with you so although you will not be able to come into school this term, you will have a good idea of what the children have been doing and what is happening. Please do keep an eye on Dojo (you will be sent a link if you haven't used it before)- the teachers will be posting pictures of the classrooms before Monday to help prepare the children and we will send information on a regular basis to keep you up to date with what is happening at school, however as ever, please do get in contact with us if you have any queries or concerns. We look forward to sharing the exciting things that our children will be doing over the first term.

Thank you for your continued support, I look forward to seeing the children next week!

Best wishes