



Great Gaddesden C of E (V.A.) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs S.M. Wickens

Church Meadow,
Great Gaddesden,
Herts.
HP1 3BT

Tel: 01442 255734

Email: admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Thursday, 27th August 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well and have had a lovely summer break. As we approach the beginning of term, I am writing to clarify arrangements that are in place for the Autumn term. As with all information at this time, this is subject to change as we respond to the latest government guidance.

Does my child have to return to school?

Yes. The government has stated that all children should now return to school in September.

Shielding children and those with underlying health conditions are also expected to attend school in September. As was the case pre-lockdown, all schools will be required to monitor attendance closely.

Will the children be expected to socially distance?

Please be aware that it is unrealistic to expect children to be able to maintain social distancing. Staff will follow the guidance of maintaining a minimum distance of at least 1 metre from each other and the children, wherever possible. Classes will continue to operate in self-contained 'class bubbles', keeping the same groups of children together, with their members of staff.

Although the majority of tables in KS1 and KS2 classes will be forward facing, the children will be sitting next to other children again, which will enable partner work to resume.

What safety measures will be in place in school ?

Prior to the children and staff returning to school, an industrial deep clean of all areas of the school, will have taken place. Following Public Health guidance, the following safety measures will continue to be in place at school :-

- desks and chairs spaced out as much as possible and forward facing where possible
- automatic hand sanitizer stands in place at entrances to the school
- hand sanitiser available in all classrooms
- frequent hand washing and good respiratory hygiene practices
- door handles and surfaces regularly cleaned throughout the day
- all classrooms well ventilated
- all work stations regularly cleaned throughout the day
- staggered playtimes and lunchtimes within class bubbles
- minimal contact between classes
- enhanced daily cleaning of the school

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)



What will the curriculum look like?

We will continue to teach a broad and balanced curriculum across all subjects. In order to ensure that the overall teaching time within each day meets the statutory requirements, the length of the lunchtime break will be slightly reduced.

In order to minimise risk, the following arrangements will be in place:-

- PE will take place outside, wherever possible. For year groups 1 – 6, please ensure that your child has their complete PE kit (clearly named) in school every day. This should include trainers for outdoor sessions.
- Outdoor learning opportunities will be increased, including Forest School sessions.
- Singing will only take place outside in the fresh air at a distance from each other
- Careful thought has been given to the length of time children are expected to stay seated at their tables and the timetable will be adjusted to include an increased number of active learning breaks for the younger children (e.g. brain gym activities).

Will clubs be starting in September?

The Government guidance is for schools to resume Breakfast Clubs and After School provision, where possible from the start of the Autumn term, with the children being organised into small, consistent groups.

This term, our club provision has been extended and I am pleased to confirm that the following clubs will be in place from the beginning of the Autumn term:-

- Breakfast Club: This will be available from the first day of term (Thursday 3rd September). This will open from 8:00 a.m. and children should be dropped off at the gate in the school garden between 8:00 – 8:20. Please contact the office via email if you wish to book this facility. The cost for this club will remain at £2.50 for the Autumn term.
- Football Club: This is available for Y1 – Y4 pupils on a Monday, from 3:15 – 4:15 and will be run by our usual club, Pro Sports. This club will take place outside. Unfortunately, when it is raining, it will be necessary to cancel this club, following government guidance. All parents will be contacted in advance of cancellation. The cost for this club is £4 per session. Please email the office if you wish to book a place for the football club. This club will start on Monday, 7th September.
- The Nurture Club: This After School provision is available from 3:15 pm - 5:30 pm, on Monday to Thursday. Please see information previously circulated regarding booking for this club. The Nurture Club will be available from Thursday, 3rd September. For further details, please contact the club manager, Mrs Crowther on Yvonne@thenurturechildrensclub.co.uk

What lunch time arrangements will be in place?

Hertfordshire Catering will be reintroducing the full choice of menu. This will include a meat option, vegetarian option, jacket potato with a choice of fillings or a filled roll. We encourage all pupils from Reception to Year 2 to take advantage of the Universal Free School Meals that is available to them. As the use of the hall will continue to be restricted, lunch times will be staggered, with most pupils having their lunch either outside or in their classroom.

Use of the playground:

The use of the playground will be staggered, with each class being allocated a specific time, for break and lunchtimes. The children will continue to make use of the penfold area as well.

Arrangements for arriving and leaving school:

We will continue to use the two entrances/exits to school for drop off and collection times, as this arrangement proved highly successful throughout lockdown.

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)



We encourage the children to continue to be independent at drop off times, saying goodbye to their adult and making their way straight into their classrooms where staff will be waiting to meet and greet them. However, we understand that for our new pupils that this may take a few days for them to settle into a routine.

Please see table below for details of arrival and collection

Year group	Drop off	Pick up time	Entry to school grounds
Nursery Reception	8:45 – 8:55 8:45 – 8:55	12:00 3:00 - 3:10	via playground gate Route to classroom : via double gate in EYFS outdoor area End of day: collection from EYFS outside area
Year 1 / 2	9:00 – 9:10	3:15 – 3:20	via playground gate Route to classroom: via playground door leading to Y1/2 classroom End of day: collection from area outside Y1/2 classroom
Year 3 / 4	8:45 – 8:55	3:00 – 3:10	via garden gate Route to classroom: via school door in school garden, through Breakfast Room, across hall to classroom End of day: collection from School Garden
Year 5 / 6	9:00 – 9:10	3:15 – 3:20	via garden gate Route to classroom: via school door in garden, through Breakfast Room, up library stairs to classroom End of day: collection from School Garden

At collection time, your children will be waiting in the allocated area outside their classroom. It is important that all adults using the playground gate entrance follow the one way system from the school gate, through the playground and exit via the walkway on the right hand side of the school building. Government guidance stipulates that only one adult per family is allowed onto the school premises.

In the cases of different arrival/exit times for siblings, in the morning, please drop off at the specific time for your child's class. At the end of the day however, please collect all siblings at the *later* time. For example, a family with a child in Y1 and Year 4, will collect both children at the later time of 3:15. Both children will be waiting in their allocated areas in the playground.

Please enter/exit the school grounds promptly so we minimise the length of time that adults are on the school premises. Please ensure that your child exits the school grounds walking closely next to you, resisting the temptation to balance on the wall when walking out of the school grounds. The Government guidance is that parents are requested not to congregate by the school entrances/exits. In the past, drop off/ pick up times have offered the opportunity for our parents to mix and socialise but unfortunately, in the current climate this will not be possible. However, in the first few weeks of the Autumn term, the school will be introducing a class representative system so that communication between parents/school/class groups is available. Further information regarding this will follow during the term.

Visitors to the school site:

Other than drop off/pick up times, all visitors to school continue to be required to make an appointment in order to come onto the school site.

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)



What does my child need to bring to school ?

The children should bring the following:-

- an outdoor coat (suitable for the Autumn / Winter weather)
- EYFS + KS1 – named wellies (to be left in school)
- a reusable water bottle (no single use plastic bottles)
- a small personal hand sanitiser
- book bag
- PE kit
- named medication such as inhalers and epi-pens. These need to be given to the office between 8:45am and 9:00am on 3rd September. Please check that the medicines are in date before handing them in.
- home packed lunch bag/box

Please note that no school bags are to be brought into school at the moment.

Is full uniform to be worn?

This term, all pupils are expected to be in full school uniform in line with the school policy, details of which are available on our school website. Please note that trainers are no longer acceptable footwear for Years 1 - 6, other than during PE sessions. Although the Government guidance states that no special or additional cleaning of school uniform is required, you may choose to wash uniform more frequently than usual.

How will the children be supported as they return to school?

At the beginning of the Autumn Term, we will prepare the children to settle back into school, rebuilding friendships and behaviours for learning. The first few days will be used as a period of induction to support the children's return to school. Teachers are planning for a variety of wellbeing sessions to suit the needs of all year groups.

During the first few weeks, we will use mini assessments for the children, in order to ascertain where gaps in learning exist as a result of the school closure and the teaching will be planned appropriately to meet the needs of the children.

Do the children need to wear face masks?

The current guidance is that the children do **not** need to wear facemasks at school. If however, a child shows signs of being unwell, they will be taken to the Nurture Room (previously known as the Breakfast Club room), while the school contacts parents. The adult who will remain with the child will wear a face mask for protection and the child may be offered a new face mask to wear.

If this guidance changes before the start of the term, I will inform all our families of the new arrangements.

For further information and practical guidance to help plan for your children's return to school, please visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool) .

Thank you for taking the time to read another lengthy letter. Please be reassured that the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils and staff is paramount and this will continue to be the driver of all decision making.

I wish all our families an enjoyable last few days of the summer holidays and look forward to welcoming all our children - returners and new - back to school in September.

Please take care.

Kind regards,
Mrs S.M.Wickens
Headteacher

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)

