



The Grove Primary School

Campkin Road, Cambridge. CB4 2NB

Tel: 01223 577017 Fax: 01223 577018

Email office@grove.cambs.sch.uk Web www.thegroveschool.net

Headteacher: Miss Ellie Shaw

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Hannah Owen

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have thoroughly enjoyed phoning all our families in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to discuss whether they would like their child(ren) to return to school should the Government go ahead with their plans from the 1st June. We currently have 96 children wishing to take up the offer to return. These include those who have been with us, during the last nine weeks, because their parents are critical workers.

In this letter I am going to outline the controls we have put in place and give you a feel for how we will reopen, should the go ahead be given. The government have been clear that they will only give us the go ahead if their five scientific tests have been met. Mr. Johnson noted, on Sunday 24th May, that he felt that the country was on track to move to the next phase of reopening, which includes increasing the numbers of children in primary schools. However, the final confirmation that we can reopen further will not be announced until Thursday 28th May.

The Government have said we have to prioritise groups in this order:

- 1) Critical workers
- 2) Children who are vulnerable and those who have an EHCP
- 3) Children in Reception
- 4) Children in Year 1
- 5) Children in Year 6

We have had to reconsider our risk assessment in the light of the government's wish to increase the number of pupils with us. We have used the information from Public Health England, and related government advice, to set up these controls which are common across schools. The Local Authority has agreed these.

- 1) Individuals, both adults and children, who have symptoms of Covid 19 or have someone in their household who does, may not attend school.
- 2) Increased hand cleaning with additional facilities and routines.
- 3) Regular cleaning of frequently touched services throughout the day and the removal of hard to clean objects (e.g. soft furnishings.)
- 4) Minimising contact and mixing between people in school by altering the classroom layout to increase spacing, decrease class sizes and staggering the start/end of the school day. Children and staff will be in smaller bubbles that do not mix during the day.
- 5) A one-way system to drop and pick up your child (ren) from school.

With the numbers of parents wanting their children to return, we have been able to cater for all the named year groups. I am now in the position, though, that most bubbles are full so I may be unable to take any further children, in the given year groups, until the government guidance changes again. The size of the bubble is dependent on how many children we can safely get into a classroom and ensure, that where children are working at tables, that they are as spaced apart as possible. There will be one child at each double table.

To allow us to embed our new routines we will be phasing our reopening between Tuesday 2nd June and Wednesday 8th June 2020. Parents who have agreed for their children to return to school will receive more information later this week.

When we are given the go ahead, to welcome the children in the above year groups back, we will expect any parent who has accepted a place to ensure that their child(ren) attend every day for the duration of the day. Just like in the “old normal” please can you contact school if your child is going to be absent. The reasons for requiring parents taking up places for their children to agree to this are:

- 1) To enable the groups of children, and their allocated adults, to remain consistent throughout the week, creating a bubble approach recommended by scientists to keep the number of interactions to a minimum.
- 2) To enable the curriculum to be taught consistently.
- 3) To provide some stability for other children in their group.
- 4) To enable the kitchen staff to order and plan school lunches accurately.

The learning set for pupils, whether they are attending school or working at home, will continue to be the same for both groups. All parents will be receiving information about logging into a web - based programme called Seesaw and the learning for those at home will be posted on there. There will be a weekly topic, very much like we have had for those children who have been with us, as well as English and Maths learning.

Thank you for your help, support and understanding. We will be sending out more specific information, for example what time to drop off your child and how this will work over the next week to the year groups concerned. If you have any questions, specific uncertainties or just want to talk things over, then please contact the office on our school phone number or send an email to office@grove.cambs.sch.uk.

I am so sad not to be able to have all the children back but please do keep sending in photos, pictures and news – we enjoy seeing them so much in school. I will continue to send out my weekly newsletters too.

Keep well and best wishes,



Miss Ellie Shaw
Headteacher.