



West Green Primary School

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1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am very pleased to be writing to you about all children returning to face-to-face education on the 8th March 2021. At West Green Primary we firmly believe that this is a positive step. I am sure that, as much as it may have been enjoyable at times, many of you will be relieved to have the burden of home learning removed from you. We will continue to provide home learning on Class Dojo up to this point.

Attendance of all pupils is compulsory, unless they are unwell, or you have discussed with the school in advance any reasons why your child should not attend. On this subject, I will take the opportunity to remind you that you should also **not send your child to school if anyone else in your household or support bubble has symptoms of Covid-19, is awaiting a test result, or has received a positive result.**

What will the return to school be like?

We are planning to have the return to school arrangement exactly like the Autumn term before this most recent lockdown. I have summarised a few key points for you below:

- School start and end times are 20 minute windows to allow appropriate social distancing. The times are:
 - Morning Arrival: 8:45a.m. to 9:05a.m.
 - Afternoon Pickup: 2:50p.m. to 3:10p.m.
- Classes will be taught in bubbles by consistent staff, and will have separate breaks and lunches.
- All of the previous measures will be in place including ventilating classrooms.
- Children should wear uniform, but this is flexible. Where extra non-uniform layers are needed, they should wear plain clothing if possible. PE kit should be worn on PE days, and extra layers can be worn on top. We fully understand that uniform availability, and children growing, may mean that some children cannot always come to school in uniform. Please do your best.
- The latest government guidance has specifically asked schools to remind parents not to gather outside the school gates.

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- Class Dojo will no longer have work posted on it for pupils to complete. We are under strict instructions from West Sussex to only provide home learning for pupils who are self-isolating. We will not provide work where parents are choosing to keep pupils at home due to perceived risks of sending them to school.
- At this time, we will not be resuming any after school clubs. It is likely that some clubs will restart in the Summer.
- There is an updated Risk Assessment available to view on the school website.

Parents' Evenings

Since most children have not been attending school, we have decided to postpone Parents' Evenings until the start of the Summer term. This will give teachers time to get children settled back in and assess their learning accurately in order to inform their discussions with you. As before, Parents' Evenings will be held either by Zoom or phone.

Catch Up

There has been a lot in the news about children catching up their learning, and of course we will be focusing on this in school. The school has been given a small amount of money to support us in catch up for children (the millions reported by the press become just thousands once they are shared between schools). However, it is also important to reflect that children will need to catch up with other things, not just academic learning. They have missed a lot of socialisation, outdoor play, and basic life experiences. We will be adopting a careful and balanced approach.

Above all it is vital that children do not feel under excessive pressure to make up for something that has been largely out of their control. This article from the BBC makes the pitfalls clear.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-56149902>

We know that children are enormously resilient (often more so than adults!), and we expect that most will return to everyday schooling with the enthusiasm that will carry them through.

Despite what you may read in the press, we currently have no plans to run Summer schools or extend the school day. We firmly believe that neither of these approaches are particularly productive as engagement by pupils is likely to be low. We feel it is better to make the most of the time we have in school.

Red Nose Day and World Book Day

Children will be welcome to wear red noses, and any other red clothing on the 19th March. We will not be doing any fundraising, but if you wish to make a donation to Comic Relief there are plenty of ways to do so.

World Book Day is on Thursday, 4th March 2021, before all the children return to school. We have decided to postpone our own World Book Day until 1st April 2021, the last day of term.

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Children can come into school in book themed clothing on this day, and there will be a range of book activities happening in class. Please do not feel that you have to go to a lot of effort to get costumes for this. Many book characters wear ordinary clothing, or simple costumes can be made by being inventive with clothes that children already have.

Please see the attached for an updated list of dates for your diary.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Hodgson" followed by a long, sweeping horizontal flourish.

Mr A Hodgson
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020/2021

MARCH 2021

16 th March 2021	Parent's evening – Postponed
18 th March 2021	Parent's evening – Postponed
19 th March 2021	Red Nose Day – No donations please. Children can wear a red nose or a red item of clothing if they wish to do so.

APRIL 2021

1 st April 2021	End of Spring term
1 st April 2021	West Green World Book Day – Children can dress as a character from their favourite book if they wish to do so.
2 nd April 2021	Good Friday – school closed
w/c 5 th April 2021 – 16 th April 2021	Easter holidays
19 th April 2021	Back to school – Start of Summer term

MAY 2021

3 rd May 2021	Bank holiday
28 th May 2021	Last day before half term
w/c 31/05/2021	Half term

JUNE 2021

7 th June 2021	Back to school
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JULY 2021

23 rd July 2021	Last day of Summer term
w/c 26/07/2021	Summer holidays