

Tuesday 2 June 2020

Dear Parents

Phased reopening of schools for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6, vulnerable and critical worker family children

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their understanding and cooperation since we have had to be closed to the majority of children. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent.

We have been working hard to put in place necessary measures to limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our school, which have been outlined below. There are also important guidelines for you to follow if you have chosen to bring your child to school. Please read this information carefully.

Protective measures we are taking in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)

What additional hygiene and infection control measures has the school put into place?

We are asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend school:

What are the main symptoms of coronavirus?

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

What would happen if my child or anyone at school develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus?

- If your child or anyone at school develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days.
- We would encourage that the child or staff member is tested.
- Where the person tests negative, they can return to school and their fellow household members can end their self-isolation.
- Where they test positive, the rest of the bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the person they live with subsequently develops symptoms. This is a vital action to ensure the risks are reduced to all staff and children in the school and help prevent the spread of the virus.

- As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the bubble or school, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools on the most appropriate action to take.

What happens if my child or anyone at school becomes unwell at school?

- If your child or anyone at school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).
- Once your child or anyone at school who has coronavirus symptoms has left the school we will follow [Cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#) to ensure areas they have been in are disinfected and that any PPE and other waste is disposed of safely.

We are keeping the children in bubbles, with as much consistent staffing as possible and minimising contact with other bubbles around the school:

- One member of staff is allocated to each bubble, or two if there is a job-share. An additional member of staff is also allocated to each bubble to cover lunch times and PPA and some may provide extra support to children in bubbles. Staff will not be mixing across bubbles.
- Bubbles will have staggered start and end times (8:30am-2:30pm, 9:00am-3:00pm, 9:30am-3:30pm). This is so that different bubbles can further minimise contact with other groups of children and parents. You will receive further details of these tomorrow, including the location of drop off and pick up.
- Children will only mix within their bubble. The children will have staggered break and lunch times. They will not be able to see or mix with their friends in the other bubbles.
- Only **one** adult should bring the child into the school grounds, who is from the same household as the child. Older children should walk to their classrooms unaccompanied from the school gate.
- There will be a queuing system (with a 2-metre distance between people) into the school building from the different entrances. Please ensure you adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Bubbles will have their own designated time and route to get to the playgrounds at break, lunch and when using outdoor spaces, in order to avoid unnecessary contact with other adults and children.
- Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms. Hot lunch will be prepared by the Pantry, from Monday 8 June and these will be delivered to bubbles in individual trays.
- Bubbles will be allocated designated toilets and cubicles they can use, to minimise contact. Hand dryers will be disconnected, due to the risk of the spread of the virus and paper towels will be available for the children to use instead.
- Please ensure your child has visited the toilet before you make your journey to school in order to limit the number of times children use the toilet in school.

We will be encouraging good hygiene practice so hands will be cleaned more often than usual:

- We will develop routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser, ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Please ensure you and your child washes their hands before leaving the house. There will also be a hand sanitiser available to use as the children walk into the school building. Once the children are inside, they will be asked to wash their hands straight away, and be supervised washing their hands throughout the day.
- Children will be encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day, including before and after eating and after sneezing or coughing.
- We will ensure that help is available for children who have trouble cleaning their hands independently.

We will ensure the children understand good respiratory hygiene:

- We will be promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and lidded bins are available across the school. We will ensure that the bins are emptied throughout the day.
- We will encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.

We will be implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule:

- The whole school has been deep cleaned prior to its partial opening.
- We will be ensuring that surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles, banisters and play equipment.
- We will ensure that classrooms are cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day.
- We will ensure that toilets are cleaned regularly throughout the day and that supplies of soap, hand towels and sanitiser are maintained.
- Where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows and doors) or ventilation units.

We are asking parents to physically distance from each other and from staff:

- There will be a queuing system with floor markings, cones and signs to manage this where necessary.
- Members of staff will be on duty in designated points (adhering to social distancing) to monitor the flow of parents and children and ensure social distancing is adhered to.
- In order to reduce the number of people on the school site, in the interest of infection control, parents will no longer be able to gather in the playground to talk to other parents.
- Parents should come into the school buildings only when strictly necessary, by appointment only.
- If parents would like to talk to the bubble member of staff, they are to email the office to arrange a phone call or make an appointment.

- Please call or email the school office with any questions or queries, rather than coming into the school office.

We are asking that children limit items they bring to school:

- Children should bring only what is necessary into school.
- Children should **not** bring their school bag or toys into school.
- Children will have the opportunity to take books home from school on set days.
- Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child before school if required. Children should bring their own sunscreen and apply it themselves at school, if wished.
- Any Items that are brought in from home will be appropriately cleaned on arrival.

We are limiting the resources children use in school:

- Children will be provided by the school with their own stationary pack. This will include pencils, a rubber, sharpener, glue stick and ruler. They will keep their stationary packs at school.
- Depending on the child's age, we may provide each child with a set of their own resources including a mini-whiteboard and pen, cubes, numicon, word mat and a number line.
- Resources which are not easily washable or wipeable will be removed from classrooms.
- The classrooms will have limited furniture and children who are in year one or in the older classes will have their own allocated table and chair to use at all times.

Limiting the number of visitors on site:

- We are limiting the number of external visitors to the school during school hours.

There are a number of things that parents can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above:

What do I do if my child or someone in my household has coronavirus symptoms?

- If your child develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus they should self-isolate for 7 days. We would encourage you to get your child tested, should this scenario occur.
- If a household member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, then every member of the household should self-isolate.

How can I access tests if my child becomes unwell?

- Testing now available to anyone with symptoms of coronavirus, including children under the age of 5 years. Anyone experiencing a new, continuous cough; high temperature; or a loss of, or change, in their normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia) can book a test:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

What about the NHS Test and Trace service?

- It is important that you inform the school if your child has been contacted by the NHS Test and Trace because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.

What do I do if my child develops symptoms of coronavirus in school?

- You will be called immediately to come and collect your child if they develop coronavirus symptoms in school.

How can I support my child before they start school?

- Please talk to your child about starting school and explain the changes to the routines and procedures.
- A video has been produced which explains what starting school will look like. This will be shared with children coming to school via Google Classroom this week. Please ensure your child watches the video before starting school and has the opportunity to talk it through with you.

Other important information

If my child / a family member is considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable, should I still send my child to school?

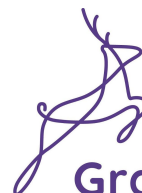
- The government advises children who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical to shield, therefore, we do not expect these children to be attending school. Parents of children in the clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) category should follow medical advice. We recommend before making any decision that you seek and follow advice from your doctor. This is also true for any children who live in a household of people who fall into these categories.

Will my child be expected to social distance?

- The Government has stated that: 'early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff'. However, we will be encouraging children to socially distance.
- We will be talking to the children about our updated behaviour policy which includes information on the altered routine, including moving around the school, following school instructions on hygiene and following instructions on only mixing with children in the same bubble.
- Staff will be communicating, reminding and modelling these expectations to the children.

Will children need to wear school uniform?

- School uniform should be worn, although we will be flexible and lenient. I am aware that children will have grown and you may not have been able to purchase appropriate clothing or shoes.



- The children should wear appropriate footwear each day, and trainers are recommended as the children will be involved in physical outdoor activity each day. Please ensure that your child is wearing closed toe shoes.
- The children should wear their PE kit (or suitable clothes) when it's their PE day. Staff in the bubble will inform your child when this is.
- The children should wear clean clothes (fresh on the day) each day.

How will lunch times work?

- In order to minimise what is brought in from home, we encourage the children to have a school lunch (including nursery children). The Pantry will be providing cold lunches this week for the children in school and from the week commencing 8 June it will be a hot lunch.
- Lunch will be chargeable at £2.50 per day for children in nursery and year 6 and the critical and vulnerable children in year 3, 4 and 5 (unless you are in receipt of pupil premium).
- Children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a lunch free of charge, under the Universal Free School Meal programme.
- You will be sent an email this week from The Pantry with details on how to log onto their online ordering system to order and pay (if applicable) for your child's lunch.
- If you do not want your child to have a school lunch, please provide your child with a packed lunch in a disposable plastic bag (with no plastic boxes). Remember that your child's lunch should not contain nuts.

What about snack time?

- A snack (piece of fruit) will be provided by the school; please do not bring this in.

Should my child bring in a water bottle?

- Children are to bring in their own water bottle (clearly labelled) each day. Please ensure your child has enough water to last them through to the end of the day (some children may need two bottles).

Travelling to school

- The government guidance says that you should avoid using public transport where possible. Instead try to walk, cycle or scoot.
- Please refer to the [guidance on safe travel, particularly on public transport](#).

What are the recommendations for PPE?

- Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools is not recommended.
- We are therefore not requiring staff or children to wear face coverings. The government guidance states that changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.
- Face coverings should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

How will the school be supporting the children's well being?

- The coronavirus outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children. Children will have also missed the routine of school and seeing their friends. We recognise that while 'getting back to normal' is important and will be reassuring for many, school staff will need to consider to how to best support children, including: those individuals who have found the long period at home particularly hard to manage; those who have developed anxieties related to the virus; children who may also have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of friends/family or had increased/new caring responsibilities.
- Staff will provide opportunities for children to talk about their experiences of the past few weeks. There will be some additional lessons on relevant topics, for example, mental wellbeing and staying safe; pastoral activities, such as positive opportunities to renew and develop friendships and peer groups, as well as other enriching developmental activities.
- The different experiences all children will have had at home will naturally play a large part in how easily they re-adapt to attending school and taking part in its routines. Staff will try and strike an appropriate balance between reintegrating children into a reassuring and familiar work ethic to support their mental wellbeing, as well as taking time to identify and explicitly address individual concerns or problems.

How will the school be supporting the child's learning?

- Please be aware that if you decide to send your child to school, the school day and routine will not be as you would normally expect.
- As well as supporting the children's well being, the staff will be prioritising the following for younger children in particular: resocialisation into new style school routine; speaking and listening and regaining momentum - particularly in relation to early reading.
- Year 6 teaching during this time will focus on readiness for secondary school, including academic readiness and will involve teaching of mathematics and English to build on the learning that has taken place while at home and eradicate any gaps as far as possible.

What will happen if I choose not to send my child to school?

- This decision is **YOUR** choice and the Government has stated that there will be **NO** penalties for non- attendance.
- If you have indicated previously that you do not wish for your child to attend and have subsequently changed your mind and now wish for your child to attend, please email the school office and let us know. We may not be able to accommodate your child immediately as we will have to check numbers. You will be notified when your child can attend as soon as possible.
- Alternatively if you have changed your mind and you no longer wish your child to attend school, please email the school office and let us know.

Next Steps

If you have indicated that you would like your child to come to school, you will receive your child's bubble information **tomorrow** (unless you are a critical worker family, in which case, you will already

World's End Lane, London N21 1PP • Telephone 0208 360 1001
office@grangeparkprimaryelt.org • www.grangeparkprimaryelt.org
Headteacher: Tijen Hassan



have received this). This will outline details of which bubble your child will be in, drop off and pick up times and location, location of the bubble and names of the staff in the bubble.

We know that our school is going to look a very different place, however, we have truly amazing staff here and they will ensure that the children's wellbeing is prioritised. They will do this alongside a continued effort to provide the very best home learning opportunities to those not returning.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back, and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our school. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do let me know.

With my very best wishes

Tijen Hassan
Headteacher