



Together We Learn and Grow

Great Sankey Primary School

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Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you are all well and you and your families remain in good health. I am delighted to finally be writing to you all with details for the full return of **ALL** pupils on **Wednesday 2nd September 2020**. Further to the government's latest guidance and in confirming all plans with Trustees and governors, we are now in a position to provide some additional detail in how we will welcome you all back.

Arrangements have been very carefully planned, prioritising the safety of the children and staff. Whilst we must be clear that we cannot eliminate all risks, we have carefully followed all government guidance and advice from Public Health England in the planning of increasing numbers in school. We have worked closely with the Local Authority, within our Trust and staff to develop comprehensive risk assessments and protocols.

As you can imagine, there is a lot of information to share with parents and carers and I would encourage you to read this through carefully to the end as we try to give as much detail and answer any questions you may have. We will also be putting this letter onto the website as well as creating a PowerPoint to support with the key messages within this letter.

Bubbles:

Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of COVID-19. Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. They have been used in schools in the summer term in recognition that children, and especially the youngest children, cannot socially distance from staff or from each other and this provides an additional protective measure. Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate and keep that number as small as possible.

Maintaining consistent groups remains important, but given the decrease in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects, we now need to change the emphasis on bubbles within their system of controls and increase the size of these groups. To support with this, children will be kept in groups (bubbles) as phases.

This means children will be in one of the following:

Early Years Bubble	Children from nursery and reception
Key Stage 1 Bubble (KS1)	Children from years one and two
Lower Key Stage 2 Bubble (LKS2)	Children from years three and four
Upper Key Stage 2 Bubble (UKS2)	Children from years five and six

Interaction will still be limited, and we will encourage social distancing with the older children. It is recognised that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group. Children will be kept in their class groups for the majority of time, with the exception of start and end of the day, break times and lunchtimes where they will be in their bubbles. Siblings will also be in different groups.

School will be a little different however, as has been proven when we opened wider to nursery, reception, year one and year six pupils, we will make it as welcoming, warm and fun as we always do. GSP is a safe, happy place to be in which lots of learning will continue, regardless of the measures we currently have to put in place.

We have carefully followed government guidance and put in place a number of measures to support in reducing the risk of infection.

The following sections have been grouped to support any wider questions you may have.

Entry and exit of school

- Start and end times to the school day are staggered as best as is possible. This is to reduce congestion and adhere to social distancing
- Strictly only one adult per child (sibling group) will be allowed onto the school premises at drop off and pick up to reduce numbers
- In the morning, parents will walk down the red path (this will have 2-metre markings and signs along it to encourage social distancing) and will drop their child off at the green gate outside the school hall. Staff members will be available to safely get the children into school grounds. Throughout 'lockdown' children in nursery upwards have been coming in independently from the point of the school gate so many of these will be moving into reception and year one who will be used to this approach. However, we recognise that there will be some children completely new to our school. Therefore, the exception will be children in the EYFS bubble. Parents will enter into the playground areas and see their children into the school at their allocated time. This will be in place until the October half term at least.
- Parents will exit school, following the clearly labelled arrows and directions, using the one-way system, which will allow them to leave via the dis-used gate which runs at the back of the car park, this gate will be open during this time
- Children will enter school by the means mentioned above for each year group, support staff will be available on the playground and around corridors to encourage social distancing
- The finish times for the end of the day are staggered as best as possible, parents will be encouraged to only enter school premises when it is their pickup time
- Children will exit by the means mentioned above for each bubble
- Parents will wait in the main playground for their child to exit. Once their child is out, they will join the red track (daily mile track) and will follow it at 2-metre distance using the one-way system to the rear of the school building. The exit will take them around the rear, out through the side wooden gates and out through the dis-used gate which runs at the back of the car park, this gate will be open during this time
- Available staff will be deployed at the rear of the building, on the car park and playground to encourage social distancing and walking on the path, not the steep embankment
- Parents will not be allowed to access the school office, unless in an emergency until further guidance allows and any messages or notes will be passed at the gate in the morning or can be emailed or phone into school
- Parents should not congregate outside the school gates at any time
- **Siblings: Parents with siblings will be asked to drop off all children at the earliest time they have been given. Siblings will enter the hall until their allocated time and wait in a designated area, supported by teaching assistants. When picking up, parents will once again attend at their earliest time and either ask for their child to be called early at the school office or wait on the playground or vehicle until their allocated time. We ask parents to be patient to support with siblings arriving and departing school.**

Start and end times for all pupils

We ask that parents strictly stick to these times to support us in the logistics of all children arriving at staggered intervals.

Bubbles	Staff	Start time	End time
EYFS bubble (1)	Nursery	8.30	3.15
	Cherry and Lime class	8.30	2.45
KS1 bubble (2)	Willow, Sycamore and Maple classes	8.45	3.00
LKS2 bubble (3)	Elm, Hazel and Beech classes	9.00	3.15
UKS2 bubble (4)	Pine, Oak and Elder classes	9.15	3.30

Hygiene

- Hand washing on entry into school, when entering outdoor areas / playground and on entry back into school, before and after eating. Handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day
- Regular wiping down of surfaces / equipment throughout the day
- Sanitiser units have been installed in every classroom and at key entrance points throughout the building to support with hygiene
- Increased cleaning throughout the day has been timetabled to support with maintaining hygiene and cleanliness
- The school owns a 'fogger' which will be used regularly to support with deeper cleaning of classrooms

Uniform

- Full school uniform will return in September and there will be an expectation that all children are smart and ready to learn in the agreed uniform. This includes appropriate footwear, hair accessories and no jewellery or nail varnish. The full school uniform policy is available on the school website

Lunchtime Arrangements and snack time

- Children will eat their lunches in their bubble in the school hall at staggered intervals from the other bubbles
- A full hot meal service will be available alongside those children wishing to bring in packed lunches
- Please provide your own healthy snack until further notice as the kitchen will not be providing snacks at this time

Classroom Arrangements

- Classrooms have been redesigned to promote social distancing, including desks facing forward as in the guidelines and personal resources where appropriate, whilst retaining a warm and welcoming classroom atmosphere
- Maintaining a distance between people whilst inside and reducing the amount of time they are in face to face contact lowers the risk of transmission. Ideally adults should maintain a 2-metre distance from each other, and from children. We know that this is not always possible, particularly when working with younger children. Similarly it will not be possible when working with pupils who have complex needs or who need close contact care. We have made small adaptations to the classroom to support distancing where possible
- Movement around the school will be kept to a minimal, including avoiding large gatherings such as assemblies and collective worship

Enrichment

Enrichment is clearly a strength of our school and we want to bring this back at the earliest opportunity. However, it is important that we establish our daily routines before we embark further on after school and lunchtime activities. In addition to this, sadly, the required staggering of lunch time and the separation of phases means that enrichment won't be able to run as it has done previously. We will continue to offer a rich and varied enrichment offer when we are able to do so fully and this will be reviewed after October half term or as new guidance is released

Resources

- Children must not share resources such as stationery, so we will allocate stationery where appropriate. In KS2 children are provided with a pencil case
- Children are allowed to bring in bags from home
- Children can take home reading books. Books returned that will be shared outside the wider bubble will be cleaned and 'quarantined' for 72 hours
- Areas will be resourced as normal to ensure effective educational provision is in place
- Each bubble across school will be provided with an outdoor play box. This will be kept within the bubble and returned to the classroom / key identified area each day. They will also be on a rota system to access the wider outdoor equipment

Managing online learning and teaching in school

- On our return in September, all new classes will be set up with Google Classroom once again
- Staff will continue to use this as resource and signpost children and parents to this resource to share homework, spellings, wider learning projects etc.
- The guidance issued by the DfE is clear in its expectations that pupils who have to self-isolate should be able to switch to remote learning immediately. Any remote learning offered because a pupil is self-isolating or due to a further period of local or national lockdown should be of "high quality" and should "*align as closely as possible with in-school provision*". Therefore, our online offer will be maintained from September should the need arise

Attendance

Now that circumstances have changed it is vital that children return to school so that we can minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, well-being and wider development.

Any further absences away from the classroom will risk pupils falling further behind. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achievement.

School attendance will therefore be mandatory once again in September. This means that from September the usual rules will apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school, and they are compulsory school age*
- *schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, resulting in prosecution for poor school attendance*

We recognise that some parents and pupils may feel anxious and worried about their return and in addition to the guidance shared here, we will work closely with families to support you with their return to school.

We recognise that parents and children may be returning with trepidation, all from different starting points. We have remained open throughout the lockdown period and have been meticulous in our approach, whilst still ensuring children attending felt settled and safe. I hope that you are reassured with the details and careful planning with regards to the reopening including how and when we communicate, to ensure that we minimise any confusion and risks as children return fully. We hope that parents feel reassured by the finer details we have included within this letter and in the way we have safely managed the children of critical workers, nursery, reception, year one and six throughout the pandemic.

We are looking forward to welcoming all our children back into school and staff will continue to work hard to follow all guidance, all with the best interests of the children at the forefront. To support you with any additional personal queries you may have after reading all the guidance above we have set up the following email ask@greatsankeyprimary.co.uk This email will be monitored throughout the working week.

Our intention is to give you as much information now as possible, hence the lengthy letter. However, there remains a number of weeks before our return in September so we may need to communicate over the summer holidays, but this will only happen if further guidance is released or any changes are required. We are confident however, that the details and planning we have adopted are considered good practice and will allow for the return of all pupils back at GSP to engage in a full, exciting broad and balanced curriculum.

Thank you for all your ongoing encouragement, kindness and support. It has been greatly valued knowing that our GSP families have supported us all throughout this challenging time.

Yours sincerely



Mrs V.J. Briggs
Headteacher

