



FEDERATION

The Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale Federation
Executive Headteacher: Mr. John Calvert

28th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, the government has announced that schools should fully reopen from the start of the upcoming autumn term.

They have decided this on the basis of:

- The prevalence of coronavirus decreasing
- The new NHS test and trace system being in place
- More clarity about the measures that need to be in place to create safe environments in schools
- Time out of school being detrimental to children's development
- The low risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus
- Low spread from child to child

This means we are planning to be open and welcome all of our pupils in September. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Friday 4th September and are working hard to make the school a safe, enjoyable environment.

We wanted to get in touch to explain what you can expect from us and what we will expect from all of our parents and carers.

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If your children have been staying at home due to the shielding guidance, the government changed this guidance on 1 August. That means they should be able to come back to school in September. We do note that they could be advised to shield again, if the situation changes and there is an increase in the transmission of COVID-19 in the community. However, if you have received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance.

We will not be continuing with our remote education offer at this time because children are supposed to be in school. If the advice changes, we are ready to resume remote education straightaway. We dearly hope we will not have to.

Safety measures

Some changes have been made for your children's protection when coming into school.

1. We have created class bubbles, in line with scientific advice to reduce contact and crowding in school. To facilitate these, we have various start and finish times of the day and breaktimes and lunchtimes.



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Date	Year group	Location	Arrive	Depart
Friday 4 th September	Nursery/Reception	Reception Gate	8:15/8:20	2:40/2:45
Friday 4 th September	1	Stanton Road	8:00	2:20
Friday 4 th September	2	Stanton Road	8:20	2:40
Friday 4 th September	3	Main Entrance	8:00	2:20
Friday 4 th September	4	Main Entrance	8:20	2:40
Friday 4 th September	5	Car Park Gate	8:20	2:40
Friday 4 th September	6	Car Park gate	8:00	2:20

- For Friday 4th and Monday 7th **Reception and Nursery** will stick to the previous arrangements of staggered start as shared in previous letter. Miss Evans will be at the gate to meet and greet parents and children.
 - **Years 1 and 2** Ms Bibby will be at the gate to meet and greet parents and children.
 - **Years 3 and 4** Miss Amber will be at the gate to meet and greet parents and children.
 - **Years 5 and 6** Mr Gordon will be at the gate to meet and greet parents and children.
2. Parents will not be allowed onto the school grounds unless they have to speak to someone in the office. We ask that parents respect the social distancing guidelines by waiting their turn outside.
 3. Children will sanitise their hands at designated stations before entering the building.
 4. Children should only take essential items to school such as their packed lunch and book bag.
 5. We will be doing everything in our power to limit the risks to all pupils and staff when they come to school e.g. ensuring good personal hygiene, keeping them in 'bubbles' (class-based), they will only play with children from their own class, the bubbles will have their own playground space and they will also have lunch as a bubble. After-school clubs will be run in bubbles e.g. Year 4 football club, Year 5 Steel Pan Club, etc.
 6. Pupils will wear uniform to school daily, except on P.E. days, when they will wear P.E. kits to school. The timetable for this will be sent out on Friday, 4th September 2020.
 7. We are asking that children bring a bottle of water to school. They will be allowed to top up their bottles once empty. **Kindly label the bottles clearly** with your child's name and year group. The water fountains have been turned off to comply with safety rules.
 8. If a pupil shows any symptoms of the virus in school, we will inform parents that they need to collect their child immediately. That child will need to be tested and we do have a few tests in school which the parent will need to administer, and send off to the testing centre. Until the test comes back negative, the child and their family will then need to self-isolate at home. Once the test has come back negative, it is safe for the child to return to school, and no one needs to self-isolate anymore.



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9. If a member of staff shows any symptoms of the virus, they will also be required to take a test, and will not return to school until they have a negative result confirmed.

All the changes will be explained by their teachers and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Curriculum

Although there will need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we will still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum. Our staff are experts at knowing what a child needs to do next, so this year will be no different.

Our current plan is to keep teaching our curriculum as we would normally do, with the understanding that pupils may have to work very hard this year to make sure they don't fall behind. In most cases, pupils will have the same teacher they had last academic year, so the transition will be easier. We will be doing additional PSHE lessons to support our pupils' mental health and well-being. Additionally, we will be embedding black history in the curriculum. This means that we will be looking at topics that will highlight and empower *all* our pupils, regardless of their ethnicity.

Pastoral support

We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils. Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support on returning to school, for example, if they are feeling anxious about coming back or they have experienced bereavement. Kindly contact your child's class teacher, Miss Evans or the school leaders to do this.

Our current plans to support your children's wellbeing during this time are:

- We will be increasing the amount of PSHE sessions that we do weekly in order to address some of the needs of those pupils who may have been adversely affected by the lockdown.
- We have a bespoke plan for our SEND pupils and Miss Evans (SEND CO) will be more than happy to share further information about these plans with the relevant families.

If you have any questions or concerns about the points we have set out above, please get in touch with us by email - admin@ggibbons.lewisham.sch.uk

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received so far from the school community. We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice. Most importantly, we just want to get our pupils back. We have missed them all.

Warm regards,

Mr. Gordon