

Grange Primary School

Webb Street, London, SE1 4RP

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Interim Headteacher: Mr Lorrain Black (MCCT)

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Monday, 1st March 2021

Dear Grange families,

School Reopening Plans

Further to my letter dated, Monday, 22nd February 2021, I write to you with further details for the re-opening of Grange Primary School to **all children on Monday, 8th March 2021**. We are absolutely delighted and cannot wait to have **ALL** our children back for face-to-face education.

In preparation for the re-opening of school, please be informed that school will be closing at 12noon on Friday, 5th March 2021 in order for staff to prepare for the return of ALL our pupils on Monday, 8th March 2021.

Alongside our classroom provision, we have continued to provide an enriching remote curriculum to those pupils who were learning at home. I know that, understandably, some of our pupils and families are hesitant about returning to school. However, in line with our commitment to provide every pupil with an education that is right for them, we will make sure that each and every pupil feels safe, secure and supported.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and well wishes over the last eight weeks. We appreciate how difficult this Lockdown has been for many of you, and your children, and we are very relieved to know that there is now an end in sight. We understand that there are many children who have struggled recently and as was the case last year, we are all on hand and ready to support the transition of pupils back to school. We were in awe of how brilliantly children settled back in to the routine of the school day back in September and have no doubt that they will amaze us again. They truly are remarkably resilient and we remain very hopeful that we will be back on track with all pupils very quickly.

We understand that many of you will be concerned about the impact of the time away from school on your children's learning but having experienced first-hand how children did in the Autumn Term, we want to reassure you all that as was our message back in September, you can trust that the children are in very capable hands upon their return and we know that you as parents have all done a superb job of helping your children engage with learning whilst they have been at home.

We have already reviewed our Risk Assessment to ensure that our school environment continues to be as safe as possible for pupils and staff. Some of our staff members have already received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Later Flow Tests (LFD)

Some staff in school have been completing twice weekly Lateral Flow tests so that we know where staff may be positive but without symptoms. This will ensure that we limit the possible spread of cases which are asymptomatic, and is an additional measure in place since school

was last open. We encourage all staff to participate in this voluntary process as it's another measure to protect ourselves and each other.

Staff/ Pupil Engagement

As always, our staff were in regular contact with all our families to ensure pupils' welfare and to check in more generally. I am delighted to hear reports that engagement had been rising amongst those pupils who initially found it more challenging to get to grips with remote learning.

In preparing for our children's return, our commitment to remain vigilant in reducing the spread of the virus and keeping everyone as safe as possible remains one of our biggest priorities. As we begin to get used to the new ways of being in school, we slowly begin to bring back some of the previously well-established school practices. Each one of those practices must be risk assessed to ensure that we are fully compliant with the government guidance. To remain compliant with the current government guidelines on safe opening of schools, we would like to remind and update you of the following practices:

Attendance

Returning to school on the 8th March is **compulsory** for all children and it is expected that very few children will be requested to shield based on medical grounds. The DfE has placed clear responsibility on schools to resume normal attendance procedures and this will include:

- Same day calling when children do not attend school including calling emergency numbers where we are unable to make contact.
- To take further action for children who are considered to be persistently absent.

We are aware that some parents and children may be anxious about returning to school. We will support parents as far as possible and would encourage parents to contact us if they have any concerns about their children returning to school. We kindly request that parents keep us fully informed if your children are unwell, attending a medical appointment or are showing symptoms of Covid-19.

Hygiene

We will continue to observe strict hygiene practises in school. On entry to the classroom all children will be required to either sanitise their hands or wash them thoroughly. We will continue to remind children of good hygiene and supervise this throughout the day. As is the current practice we will continue to have two cleaners continually cleaning and disinfecting the school throughout the day. This is in addition to the daily morning cleaning of all spaces.

Social Distancing

From Year 3 – 6, children will remain sitting in rows, limiting social distancing where appropriate, the children will be familiar with this arrangement from the Autumn Term. The DfE recognises that in the Early Years it is not possible for children to socially distance as the curriculum provision is very different to the rest of the school. For this reason, the EYFS team will promote hand washing and take necessary precaution with regards to resources. EYFS – Year 2 will continue to follow their seating arrangements as before. Children will be able to mix in year group bubbles but not beyond. Children will continue to have lunch and playtimes within their bubbles.

PE Provision

We will continue with PE and sport activities delivered by our specialist coaches. Children will be resuming the PE curriculum (with the exception of contact sports) and this will happen with due regard to social distancing bearing in mind that children will be in class and year group bubbles. Any equipment used will be disinfected before and after use. Children will be asked

to come to school in their PE kits on their PE days. Parents will be informed of their child's PE days via text message by the end of this week.

Parents on site

Unfortunately, we will have to continue to ask parents not to enter the school ground during drop off but Years, 1,2,3 and 4 parents **will be permitted to enter the playground and collect your children at the end of the school day, adhering to social distancing**. If a matter is urgent, you may call the school office to arrange a telephone consultation or a virtual Teams meeting with a member of staff. There may be a delay in teachers responding to parent's requests as teachers will now be in class full time from Monday, 8th March 2021. We appreciate your understanding in this regard. Only pre-arranged visits to the school will be accommodated following the school's strict safety measures. We request that parents visiting the school wear a face mask or face-covering.

Late Arrivals

Children who are late may have to wait for a year group to enter the building prior to being permitted to enter, so please be on time.

Birthday Party Bags

We are asking families to work with us by refraining from sending party bags or any personal items that have not been agreed by the school. This will help us avoid as much as possible any potential cross-contamination. This will be kept under review and we will update you, if any changes are being introduced. Please be assured children's birthdays are acknowledged and celebrated in class.

Water bottles

Parents should provide their child with a water bottle that is clearly labelled with their child's name. If they are unable to provide a water bottle, they have been asked to the school know and one will be made available at school. **Water bottles brought into school should be taken home and cleaned on a daily basis!**

Wearing Masks

Where possible, we would request that children and parents walk to school. Children are exempt from wearing facemasks. However, we ask that adults wear a face covering when dropping off and picking up children.

Staffing plans

If you are a parent of a child in Miss Balogun's class, we are delighted to confirm that Miss Phyllis Watson has been employed to cover her maternity leave through to the end of the academic year. Miss Watson will be working with the children on MS Teams this week and a detailed handover will take place between the teachers before the re-opening on Monday 8th March. This will ensure that children are being welcomed back by a familiar face and to someone who knows the systems and the routines of our school.

Miss Watson will work closely with Miss Balogun, who will continue to be in touch with her class via daily MS Teams. Miss Balogun will also be responsible for planning and assisting remotely in Year 1 provision until her maternity leave officially starts in May.

Mrs Adeyemi (Y5 Neptune class) will be continuing to support her class remotely. Her class will be covered by Mrs Naimat Yousif. Mr Aslam Khan, Miss Jackie Morton and Mr Samuel Kahdum (Teaching Assistants) will also provide consistent support as the TA's working in Year 5. They have all worked with us since the Autumn Term and during Lockdown and have relevant experience of how the school works, getting to know the Year 5 pupils along the way. They will work closely

with Mrs Yousif to provide as much consistency as possible in Mrs Adeyemi's absence. We would like to thank you for your support and understanding at this difficult time.

For the time being, Mrs Amina Rahman will be supporting her class remotely.

Breakfast Club, 07:45-08:45am

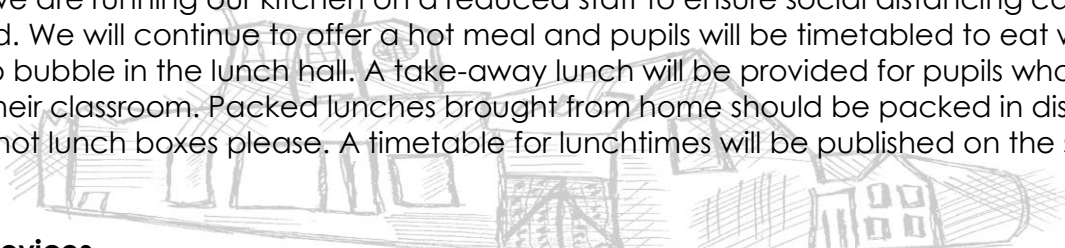
We will resume Breakfast Club from **Monday, 8th March 2021**. Pupils should enter the Albert McKenzie Hall at 7:45am through the main school gate.

After School Clubs, 3:30-6:00pm

Whilst the government have announced that after school clubs can now commence, we have made the decision to delay any after school club until the week beginning **Monday, 15th March 2021**.

Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes will continue to run as they did prior to Christmas and we will send out our menu next week for those parents wishing for their children to have a school dinner. As was the case last term, we are running our kitchen on a reduced staff to ensure social distancing can be maintained. We will continue to offer a hot meal and pupils will be timetabled to eat within a year group bubble in the lunch hall. A take-away lunch will be provided for pupils who will be eating in their classroom. Packed lunches brought from home should be packed in disposable bags and not lunch boxes please. A timetable for lunchtimes will be published on the school website.



Return of devices

We would like to request all parents/carers to return devices like laptops that were borrowed during Lockdown. Please can we remind parents to ensure that all personal data like email accounts etc. are removed from the device before it is returned. Parents/carers who borrowed devices will receive a text message and a call from the office to arrange return of the device. **Time and date will be texted to you for the safe return of the devices. Please wait to hear from us.**

Important reminders re: drop off and collection

The following information provides reminders about procedures that you should be aware of for the start and end of the day. We appreciate your ongoing support with these measures.

- **One member of the household** to be responsible for drop off / collection of children from school.
- All adults coming to school to **wear a face covering/ mask**.
- All parents are asked to wait in **clearly labelled zones** just outside of school grounds (avoiding the gates as much as possible) to ease flow and number of adults at the beginning and end of day
- Families to leave the school **as swiftly as possible** after drop off and collection

Grange Primary School
Time table from Monday, 08th March 2021

Year Group	Staggered start of the school day:	Staggered Playtime:	Staggered Lunchtime (45 minutes):	Staggered End of the school day:
Nursery	9:00am		11:15am	3:20pm
Year Reception	8:45am		11:15am	3:10pm
Year 1	8:45am (drop off at gate)	10:30 – 10:45am	11:45 – 12:30pm	3:05pm (collect from playground)
Year 2	8:45am (drop off at gate)	10:30 – 10:45am	11:45 – 12:30pm	3:05pm (collect from playground)
Year 3	8:55am	10:50-11:05am	Year 3: 11:45 – 12:30pm	3:15pm
Year 4	8:55am	10:50-11:05am	Year 4: 12:40-1:25pm	3:15pm
Year 5	9:05am	11:10 – 11:25am	12:40-1:25pm	Year 5- 3:20pm
Year 6	9:05am	11:10 – 11:25am	12:40-1:25pm	Year 6- 3:20pm

Keeping in Touch

We do understand the importance of keeping in touch, so, for that reason we ask you to email, or phone the office to let us know that you would like a conversation with the class teacher. Please email: office@grange.southwark.sch.uk or phone us on: **0207 771 6121** to make an appointment.

Thank you once again for your assistance and understanding since Lockdown began. It is clear that we have an incredibly close-knit and inclusive community and we very much looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school.

Let's continue to work together to keep our children and Grange community as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,
 Senior Leadership Team
 01/03/2021

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