

5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I offer my congratulations to you all this week! Whether you have survived home schooling and juggling your own commitments, or whether you have continued to go out to work and bring your children to school for a very different experience, please do not underestimate all that you have achieved. A huge thank you to you all for your support and commitment to your children and school.

So now we approach the next step of our Covid19 journey. School reopens to all children on Monday. I have attempted to answer some of your many queries in a question and answer format below. Although we are delighted to have children returning to us again and know how important it is to get schools open again, it is important to realise that little else changes - at least for the time being. Lockdown isn't over. The stay at home order is still in place. Government guidance for primary schools, including the actions they should take remains largely the same as during the Autumn term - we are not back to 'normal'. It is vital that every single one of us follows the rules and routines that we have in place. Although measures have been highly effective to date, we are only as strong as our weakest link. School has to respond in exactly the same way as in the Autumn term to any positive case in our community. That will mean closing bubbles and more disruption for us all. We cannot afford that at the moment. With that in mind, please read the questions and answers below and ensure that for the sake of your children, their education and the health and safety of our community, we **ALL** follow the rules.

Do children have to come to school from March 8th 2021?

All children are expected to attend full time from March 8th. Our normal school attendance rules will apply. I asked you last week to contact school this week if you thought your child would need additional support on their return.

What times will school start and end?

Times continue to be staggered and entrances as they were during the Autumn term. Please do not gather at the school gates and remember to socially distance from other families when on site. Only one adult per child will be allowed on site. School gates will open at 8.45am and 3pm. Please do not arrive on site more than 5 minutes before your start time. If you have more than one child, please come on to site at your earliest start time, but keep other siblings with you. **We have changed the exit door and collection point for 3S and 4F in order to further reduce congestion in the zebra crossing area. Please read the information below carefully. Please stick to the given time and entrances at all times.**

Year Group	Start Time	End Time	Entrance	Exit	Drop and Collect Children from Monday 8 th March
Rec	8.50am	3.05pm	Middle gate (between our main entrance and Grendon and Billesley Nursery drive)	Blue gate onto path by Grendon and Billesley Nursery	Line up in front playground on yellow stripes. An adult can wait with their child. Collect from the same area.
1	9.00am	3.15pm	Middle gate (between our main entrance and Grendon and Billesley Nursery drive)	Blue gate onto path by Grendon and Billesley Nursery	Line up in front playground on yellow stripes. An adult can wait with their child. Collect from the same area.
2	8.50am	3.05pm	Middle gate (between our main entrance and Grendon and Billesley Nursery drive)	Blue gate onto path by Grendon and Billesley Nursery	Line up in front playground on yellow stripes. An adult can wait with their child. Collect from the same area.

3	8.50am	3.05pm	Main pedestrian gate	Main vehicle gate	Zebra crossing area by bike shelter. Children enter side playground and line up on yellow stripes. Adults do not wait. At end of the day 3G are collected from the side playground. 3S are collected from the KS1 hall door in the front playground. Parents wait in and around the covered area where picnic benches are.
4	9.00am	3.15pm	Main pedestrian gate	Main vehicle gate	Zebra crossing area by bike shelter. Children enter side playground and line up on yellow stripes. Adults do not wait. 4N are collected from the side playground. 4F are collected from the KS1 hall door in the front playground. Parents wait in and around the covered area where picnic benches are.
5	8.50am	3.05pm	Main pedestrian gate	Main vehicle gate	Zebra crossing area by bike shelter. Children enter side playground and line up on yellow stripes. Adults do not wait. 5B collected from the carpark area by the bike shelter. 5R collected from the carpark area nearer the vehicle gate.
6	9.00am	3.15pm	Main pedestrian gate	Main vehicle gate	Zebra crossing area by bike shelter. Children enter side playground and line up on yellow stripes. Adults do not wait. 6P collected from the carpark area by the bike shelter. 6H collected from the carpark area nearer the vehicle gate.

Can children continue to come to school on bikes or scooters?

KS2 children can continue to come to school on bikes or scooters and leave them in the bike shelter or scooter racks. KS1 and Reception children can still ride a bike or scooter to school if you choose but they will not be able to leave these at school as this will involve them crossing into an area where other year groups are waiting.

What will children need to bring with them?

All children will need to return their Work From Home Pack that we provided in a plastic folder during the Autumn term. We will re-stock and re-issue these in preparation for any further bubble closures. Laptops that were loaned need to be returned on Monday (parents have had a separate letter about this).

Children can bring a school bag for reading books, a snack and drink for playtime as we will not be selling these in school for the moment. They also need a water bottle which can be refilled in school. School will now sell water bottles and are available from the office. Please bring the correct change - 40p.

What will children wear?

Full school uniform policy will in operation from Monday including PE kit. Uniform can be ordered from the school office, by phone or email. Information about school uniform can be found on the information tab of the website.

What size bubbles will children be in?

Year group bubbles are the biggest bubbles your child will be in. Year groups will not mix and be kept separate at all times including playtimes, lunchtimes and using toilets. For the majority of time, children will be kept in smaller class size bubbles in their classrooms, with their teacher. For some parts of the day including playtimes, lunchtimes and for specialist teacher or intervention work, children may be in grouped across the two classes in a year group.



Headteacher: Mrs. H Ridley

Grendon Road,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 4RB

Tel: 0121 474 2460
Fax: 0121 430 6713

www.grendon.bham.sch.uk
Email: enquiry@grendon.bham.sch.uk

What are the arrangements for lunchtime?

Each year group will have a separate time and space in the hall to eat and a separate playground or zone of the playground to play in. The kitchen will provide hot meals. Children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to this lunch free of charge under the Government's universal free school meals programme. Children in Years 3 - 6 may be entitled to free school meals, based on the benefits that families claim. Please contact the school office with your national insurance number and date of birth if you believe your child is eligible. Any child can bring a packed lunch and drink from home if they don't want the school packed lunch. **Vouchers will no longer be given as school is providing food.**

What will the curriculum look like?

We know that children have missed a lot of learning. We know that many families have found home schooling difficult. We know that we cannot simply start where we would normally. We know that the catch up needed isn't a quick process and have planned this carefully across the rest of the next academic year and into next. It is now more a process of 'recovery' rather than 'catch up'. We have planned a consolidation curriculum until Easter and will then return to our recovery curriculum. The focus here will be on identifying and closing gaps quickly in reading, writing and maths but also keeping the curriculum broad and balanced, ensuring all subjects are covered across the year.

Our pastoral curriculum is of equal importance. We have planned a well-being return for Monday 8th, daily well-being check ins, a weekly session called 'Feel Good Friday' as well as our usual PSHE lessons. It will also give children an opportunity to process all that has happened in lockdown, reconnect with friends in school and identify the positives in our current situation.

What do I do if my child or a household member is ill?

If your child or any member of your household has any of the 3 symptoms of Covid-19, please follow the guidance in our 'What do I do If...' information sheet. Please do not bring your child to school.

How will the school be cleaned?

We are operating an enhanced cleaning schedule in line with guidance. Cleaning staff will now be on site all day. Shared spaces such as toilets, will be cleaned frequently, as will all touchpoints throughout school. This process has been in place throughout the pandemic and has been effective to date.

What additional hygiene processes will be in place?

In line with guidance, children will be asked to wash hands frequently and at set points during the day. We have built time into the school timetable to ensure this is done. There are additional sanitiser points around school. Children will be asked to use the catch it-bin it- kill it approach or cough or sneeze into their elbow if needed.

What happens if my child is ill in school?

We will contact you and send them home as normal. If we see any of the 3 symptoms of Covid-19, your child will be isolated immediately. An adult will supervise them until they are collected and may wear PPE. Please ensure we have up to date contact details and that you are able to answer if school calls. We will do all we can to ensure that further closures of classes or year groups are avoided but we need your help and support with this.

What will classrooms look like?

Classrooms will be set up as they were for the Autumn term. We will not have soft furnishing, e.g. cushions in classrooms at this point. Wherever possible desks will face the front, with 2 children at each table. Tables will be as far apart as we can make them, although school guidance recognises that we will not be able to keep children 2m or even 1m apart at all times. Children will have individual stationary items but may share other less frequently used class resources. These will be cleaned after use.





Headteacher: Mrs. H Ridley

Grendon Road,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 4RB

Tel: 0121 474 2460
Fax: 0121 430 6713

www.grendon.bham.sch.uk
Email: enquiry@grendon.bham.sch.uk

Can I come into school?

We are restricting the numbers of visitors to school and in line with Government guidance will not be having assemblies or celebrations in large groups - we will find alternative ways of doing this. The school office will be open between 9.10am - 9.30am but we ask you to queue on the marks on the ramp outside and only have 1 person in the office at a time. Please phone school or use the enquiry@grendon.bham.sch.uk email address if possible instead of visiting the office in person. Year group emails that have been in operation throughout lockdown will remain in use as a way of you contacting your child's teacher. We will be able to speak to you by phone if required.

Will children and or staff wear face coverings or PPE?

No, not as a rule. Staff may use full PPE in first aid situations or if isolating a child with symptoms. Staff may choose to teach in clear visors. In a change to guidance, staff in primary schools are now asked to wear face coverings in communal areas and corridors. We will not be teaching in masks. There is no need for primary children to wear masks in school; they are not able to maintain the strict hygiene processes involved in putting masks on and off and not touching them while they are on. Constant touching would actually increase risk. Masks must be worn on public transport and should be removed at school safely, without touching the front of the mask or your face. They can be kept in children's bags if needed.

Will staff and children be tested at school for Covid19?

Staff are taking twice weekly lateral flow tests at home. This is another layer of protection that will keep us all safe in school, however, may result in short notice bubble closures in response to a positive test. There are no plans to routinely test primary children in school or at home and we would never do this without your permission even if this was introduced. There is an option now introduced for adults in families with school age children to have access to lateral flow testing for themselves. This is not arranged through school. For more information, please see:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Have staff been vaccinated?

Some staff have been vaccinated if they fall into the priority groups that have currently been vaccinated. Vaccination has been prioritised in age groups and for medically vulnerable adults and not on the basis of their profession.

Please keep your eye out for email communication from school from now on. As part of our move towards paperless communication, we will generally not send out information by paper unless there is no other way. Paper copies will always be available from the school office. Please ensure you contact the office if you change your email address or are not receiving emails from school.

I am aware that this is a lot of information to read and understand, but feel that if we are to work together and ensure we are all safe then there must be a clear and shared understanding of processes, rules and routines. Please read all of this information carefully. If you have further questions or need anything clarifying please ring school on 0121 474 2460 or email enquiry@grendon.bham.sch.uk or emergency@grendon.bham.sch.uk and we will respond as soon as we can.

Next week will be challenging for us all, but together WE CAN make this a successful return for us all. Please check the website for a video message from staff to children. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Ridley

