



Dear Parents,

I would like to start by welcoming all of our new Reception children and parents to Grendon. I have been so impressed with the way that children have come into school – most of them look as if they have been doing it for years, despite them having only completed one full week. Thank you to parents for supporting this so brilliantly.

Covid-19

My thanks to all parents who continue to work with us as we implement totally new systems and processes in school as a result of the current situation. I know the advice surrounding Covid-19 symptoms and what this means for your family and school can seem confusing. I have attached a “What do I do if...” sheet that attempts to give you the answers. We are aware that nothing surrounding Covid-19 is clear cut. If you remain unsure about what to do in any circumstance, please contact school by phone or email and we will advise. Please remember:

- be at school on time. It is very difficult to keep bubbles separate if children have missed their allocated start time.
- maintain a social distance while on site. We have worked hard to ensure that you have the space you need at your allocated drop off or collection point at your allocated time. Please make sure you use this space. Every one of us needs to play our part. Please help us by not standing in groups or walking out of school in groups. Use the space that is available, even if this means waiting a minute for parents to clear the route in front.
- give parents and children space outside school on Grendon Road. I am aware that some parents are arriving earlier than their allocated time and waiting outside. This is making it harder for the first set of parents and children to leave school and maintain distance. Please be at school at your allocated time, do not block the exit points and ensure you are socially distancing at all times.
- our action plan and risk assessment available on the website asks for one adult only to be on site with a child. Please help us reduce numbers by ensuring this happens.
- restrictions in place in Birmingham mean that you or your children should not be in anybody else's house or garden. This has implications for before and after school arrangements if you rely on other people.
- there is no guidance that I can enforce that asks parents to wear masks in outside spaces. You are of course, free to do so if you choose to. We have ensured that you all have enough space around you and that you can socially distance. We need all of your support to ensure this happens.

As the weather changes, we are likely to start getting some rainy mornings. Rec, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 will be allowed straight into the building when the gate opens at 8.45am. To avoid mixing bubbles, it is really important that children use their usual door. We will have staff on all of these doors. Please do not send your children in through the main entrance if this isn't their usual door as they will mix with other year groups and we are doing all we can to avoid this. Years 1, 4 and 6 will be allowed into the building at 8.55am. We cannot let these children in earlier as other year groups will be using coat peg areas and toilets.

School Photographs

The photographer will visit school on Wednesday 14th October as planned. We cannot mix bubbles and cannot have groups of people waiting. For this reason, I am sorry that we cannot offer the family group photos with pre-school children that usually take place before school, or have school age children taken with their siblings in school. Photographs this year will be individual portraits only.

Parents Events

Birmingham City Council have advised schools that in light of current restrictions, we should not be holding any parent's events in school. This term in particular we should have welcome meetings, harvest festival, parents evening and open day before moving onto our Christmas events. We don't want you or the children to miss out and are busy looking for alternative ways of making things happen – watch this space!

Communication

As you know, there is now less opportunity for you to speak to your child's teacher before or after school. Please use the year group emails that can be found on the class pages of the website or phone the school office if you need to let us know something or if you have a concern. We can arrange to call you back if needed. We will continue to ensure all information is on the school website. Please check regularly. Class pages now have this term's newsletters for teachers on so please read these.

School Uniform

Please email school on enquiry@grendon.bham.sch.uk or complete an order form available from the office if you want to order uniform. We have plenty in stock. We will arrange a collection time with you.

School Dinners

As you know, Cityserve are currently serving packed lunches only. School will review this arrangement with them in line with risk assessments. Please ensure that you let school have as much notice as possible (2 weeks) if you want to change your child's lunch arrangements. This is so the correct amount of food is ordered and we reduce waste.

Celebrating Success

We can't have whole school or key stage assemblies at the moment nor can we invite parents into school, but this doesn't mean we are not very proud of your children! We want to continue to share successes with you. From next week, we will continue to reward 2 children from each class who have worked particularly hard each week. Look out for any certificates, along with a special message from me. We Can certificates will be awarded as usual at the end of each half term.

Water

As you know, children are able to bring any drink (not fizzy) for playtime and another for dinner time. A few years ago now, we moved to allowing all children to have access to water throughout the day in classrooms as well. The rules on this have never changed. Children should only be drinking water in the classroom. Please help us to ensure this happens. They are of course allowed other drinks at playtime and dinner time:

My apologies for this containing such a lot of information – again! We are having to update nearly all of our routines and processes at the moment and I am keen to ensure that we communicate all information with you in order for us to work together effectively. We will return to our usual or perhaps updated newsletter format soon!

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Ridley