

# **Full Opening of Grendon CE Primary School**

## **Parent Information v2**

6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Background

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, the DfE announced their intention for all pupils, in all year groups to return to school full-time from the beginning of the Autumn Term which for our school is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. The prevalence of Covid-19 has decreased and it is the DfE's position that returning to school in September is vital for children's education and well-being. Time away from school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children and those with SEN.

**<sup>1</sup> DfE Guidance: Guidance for Full Opening - Schools**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

**<sup>2</sup> DfE Guidance: Coronavirus (Covid-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

**<sup>3</sup> Covid-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

**<sup>4</sup> Covid-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

**<sup>5</sup> NHS Coronavirus (Covid 19) information site**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

**<sup>6</sup> Covid-19: getting tested**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

This guidance is supported by a risk assessment which is available on the school website.

## General Points

- ✓ Grendon CE Primary School reopens for all pupils at the start of the 2020-21 academic year.
- ✓ Pupils attendance at school will be mandatory from the beginning of the autumn term
- ✓ Our new Reception cohort will begin full time from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September (induction day the previous week as notified separately); Nursery cohort will begin from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. The rest of the school begin term on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.
- ✓ To remove doubt, it is important to clarify that the DfE acknowledges in its guidance the inherent challenges associated with the full opening primary schools and, in particular, it recognises that social-distancing (as we understand its definition to be in the context of the global Covid-19 pandemic) is not practically possible within a primary school setting. Instead, DfE guidance<sup>1</sup> states that schools should attempt to reduce Covid-19 transmission by:
  - *avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
  - *frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices*
  - *regular cleaning of settings*
  - *and minimising contact and mixing*
- ✓ Children will be broadly grouped into class bubbles for the majority of their time in school
- ✓ Do not expect to see school staff routinely wearing face coverings. Whilst individual staff may choose to wear face coverings, this is not recommended by the DfE.
- ✓ School will no longer be closed on Friday afternoons
- ✓ Before and after-school provision resumes at the start of the autumn term
- ✓ Parents should not enter the school building unless by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher
- ✓ External professionals, coaches, music teachers and volunteers will resume work in schools from the start of the autumn term
- ✓ **It is the school's expectation that all parents will not only make themselves fully aware of the parent information contained in this document but that they will also adhere to the strict guidance that is clearly laid out within.**

## Reducing Covid-19 Transmission: **for a child becoming unwell in the setting**

### Control Measures

- If a pupil displays Coronavirus symptoms [new, continuous cough or high temperature or a loss or change in sense of taste or smell] they will be isolated and sent home immediately, with parents directed to follow government<sup>3</sup> and NHS<sup>5</sup> guidance, including the DfE guidance to get tested<sup>6</sup>
- The library is the designated isolation room but may be used for other activities, such as group interventions.
- A staff member working with the group containing a symptomatic child will use PPE (facemask, apron and gloves) and supervise the child in the isolation room at a distance of 2m where possible and with the window open until they can safely leave school.
- Government guidance<sup>4</sup> will be followed to ensure the adequate cleaning of the room by the member of staff involved in the case. This will include disinfecting surfaces, double bagging and storing for 72 hours any PPE used and washing hands.
- Anyone else within the group does not need to go home unless they display symptoms.
- A subsequent negative test means that the pupil/adult can return to the setting
- Everyone who has contact with an unwell pupil/adult must wash their hands

## Reducing Covid-19 Transmission: **for a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the setting**

### Control Measures

- If someone tests positive, they should follow DfE guidance<sup>3</sup> and self-isolate for 7 days, with other members of the same household self-isolating for 14 days.
- The school will immediately contact the Health Protection Team (HPT) on 0344 2254 524 (option 1) or 0344 2254 524 (out of hours) who will conduct a risk assessment with school to determine next steps.
- DfE guidance states: *'those people who have been in close contact with the person who tested positive'* must go home and self-isolate for 14 days although the HPT will provide definitive advice on this. To aid this process, the school will document the main groups that the affected person has had contact with.
- Household members of those who are sent home (without symptoms) are not required to self-isolate.
- If a person who has been sent home develops Covid-19 symptoms, they must get tested. If they subsequently test positive, they should inform school immediately. If they test negative, they should still self-isolate for the remainder of the 14 day period because *'they could still develop'* Covid-19
- The school must not release the names or details of those people with Coronavirus.
- Anyone testing positive should be prepared to provide details, when asked by NHS Test and Trace, of anyone that they come into contact with.
- 2 or more confirmed cases may indicate an outbreak and HPT will advise and support accordingly.

## Reducing Covid-19 Transmission: **at the start and end of the school day**

### Control Measures

- **Parents and visitors may enter the school building by prior agreement with the Head only**
- **Parents may access the playground via the front and rear entrance but must not congregate or wait along the narrow path leading from the front pedestrian access gate. This area is clearly marked as a no waiting zone.**
- Drop off extended from 8.45 – 9.15am, with pick up from 3.15m – 3.30pm to ease congestion.
- Only one parent of each child should enter the school site for the purpose of school drop off/pick up. The exception to this rule is that both parents of children new to the school may enter the school site on their child's first day at school.
- An 'exclusion zone' is marked close to the border of the playground which parents must not cross
- Parents instructed to drop off/pick up children in the playground and leave the school site promptly
- Parents are requested to observe the 2m social distancing rule whilst on school site.
- All children enter their classroom immediately on arrival where they will be greeted by a member of staff
- At home time, pupils will remain in the classroom and be dismissed one at a time to minimise congestion
- All childcare provision will resume (morning supervision from 8.30am and after-school childcare starting again from September). Wherever possible, the 4 distinct class groups will be maintained within these childcare settings.

## Reducing Covid-19 Transmission: **between home and school**

### Control Measures

- Anybody displaying symptoms must not to come to school as per government guidance<sup>3</sup>
- All staff and pupils to wash hands on arrival at and before leaving school
- Parents of children in the September Nursery cohort may amend their child's hours during the course of the year.
- Children should bring in lunchbox and snack, named water bottle, sun hat and suncream (suncream should remain in school) and coat (if necessary), reading book, Home Communication Book and homework.
- Pupils should not bring their own bags after the first day. Schools will instead provide pupils in Years 3-6 with an A4 plastic wallet, with pupils in Early Years and Years 1-2 asked to use a Book Bag.
- Children should come to school in PE kit on their PE days (which teachers will advise you of separately)
- There will be no physical access to the school office. Instead all enquiries should be made via email and phone
- Staff will get in close proximity of pupils if their duty of care demands it eg; to administer first aid
- All staff to follow guidance in this risk assessment and sign to state they have read it.
- Face coverings in school are not recommended by PHE and the DfE states that their use may infact have *'negative effects on communication and therefore education.'*
- DfE guidance states that: *'Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often or differently than usual.'*

## Reducing Covid-19 Transmission: **by controlling movement around school**

### Control Measures

- DfE Guidance<sup>1</sup> states that *'brief, transitory, contact such as passing in a corridor is low risk'*
- Pupils will access one classroom where they will remain for the vast majority of the day
- Children will leave their classroom only to access toilets, outdoor space, for administration of medication/first aid and for group or individual interventions
- PE will initially only take place outside and will only include non-contact sports
- Classes to use own external doors to access the playground
- Only one child per class/group to be authorised to use the toilet at any one time
- Floor markings will be placed outside toilets for pupils to observe if there is a queue.
- Children reminded to wash hands for 20 seconds after each toilet visit
- There will be no assemblies or whole school events in the hall
- Packed lunches will be eaten in classrooms (or outside) with hot meals mainly served in the hall. In some instances, hot meals may be served in classrooms. Staff members will serve and collect plates/cups to prevent congestion and interaction between pupils
- Messages between the office and classrooms to take place only via telephone/email, with electronic registers used to minimise contact.

## Reducing Covid-19 Transmission: **at other times of the school day (1)**

### Control Measures

- A clear and enhanced cleaning schedule is in place to include the daily cleaning of all rooms/areas used in school.
- Lidded bins will be situated in each classroom for disposal of tissues
- Cleaning 'stations' including alcohol wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitiser will be positioned in each classroom and key areas around school with regularly used surfaces/items cleaned between uses.
- A designated hand washing station or sink will be made available to each of the 4 core groups of pupils
- For the majority of their time in school, children will be limited to their class groups
- Pupils will wash hands on arrival to and before departing school and before and after activities, including eating
- Children will be regularly reminded not to touch their face and to *'catch, bin and kill'* sneezes and coughs
- Where children cannot independently manage their own hygiene, they will be supported to do so by an adult. PPE (facemask, apron and gloves) should be used by staff when involved in 'intimate care' of pupils.
- Teachers will resume marking work as per school policy and children can access reading books from a class based library
- Where possible, children will work side by side (and facing the front of the room) as opposed to facing each other, although the physical layout of the school and the age of the children mean that will not always be possible

## Reducing Covid-19 Transmission: **at other times of the school day (2)**

### Control Measures

- The DfE guidance states that: *'All staff can operate across different groups in order to facilitate the timetable.'* Interventions (individual and group) will resume and may include children from different groups. Communal learning spaces may be used but are timetabled to avoid clashes.
- Windows and internal doors will be open where possible to aid ventilation and minimise contact with handles.
- The school's learning environments can once again be designed to reflect the school's curriculum themes
- Children continue to be provided with their own individual equipment eg; pens, pencils
- Staff will administer suncream to children via spray only
- Outdoor learning is promoted at every opportunity. Outdoor space will be 'zoned' so that multiple groups can work/play outside simultaneously. The zones will include the EY space [for Nursery and Reception only], Quiet Garden, Woodland Hideout, Main Playground and 2 zones which will be marked on the grass bank.
- All breaks will be staggered so that no two groups of children occupy the Main Playground at the same time
- Within their designated class group, *'it is acceptable for children not to distance.'*
- First aid will be administered on the playground wherever possible
- Outdoor equipment should not be used unless staff clean them between use or allocate them permanently to individuals
- External professionals eg; music tutors, will resume their roles in school on agreement with the Head and whilst adhering to the school's risk assessment.
- Volunteers will resume work in school in agreement with the Head, adhering to the school's risk assessment and working within one bubble only.

## Reducing Covid-19 Transmission: **for vulnerable children and those with SEN**

### Control Measures

- Interventions and support for 1:1 arrangements will be provided whilst maintaining social-distancing and may take place in classrooms and communal learning spaces
- The government advises any child who meets the criteria of being extremely clinically vulnerable *'can return to their educational settings.'*