



FEDERATION

The Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale Federation
Executive Headteacher: Miss Lesley Ann Jones

20th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Arrangements for children returning in September

Firstly, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for the tremendous support we have received from you over the last few months. It has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone. The kindness that has been shown in so many ways was really special and has brought great comfort to staff and pupils alike. We have really enjoyed hearing about the learning that has taken place at home and receiving photos of the drawings and writing from the children. Your quiet resolve and cooperation with the arrangements at school have allowed us to serve the needs of the children and families that need us most. Your efforts are truly appreciated and, although nothing can replace your child attending school, you have done your utmost to minimise the impact on your child's education and well-being. Thank you.

We hope that this letter finds you and your family well. We recognise that this has been a very difficult and challenging time for everyone, and we know that many families have been greatly impacted by the coronavirus situation, socially, emotionally and economically. Our thoughts go out to each and every one of you. We know that this hasn't been easy. We would also like to thank our staff team for working so hard to provide all our students with work whether at home or if they have been coming into school. We are also proud that we are one of only a handful of schools that have been opening to Year 5 as well as the other year groups. However, we recognise the huge disruption to learning and social interaction that has affected the vast majority of our children. We now want to ensure that all parents and carers know what to expect following the government's announcement that all children are expected to return to school in September.

Keeping your child safe

We have been working very hard this term to make schools as safe as possible. We have focused upon hygiene, regular handwashing, increased cleaning, not sharing equipment and being socially distanced where possible. We intend to keep successfully doing these things in September.

- We will need to have a 'soft start' to stop pupils gathering in larger groups.
- We will ask parents not to congregate on the school playground both before and after school.
- Different year groups will have different start and end times to their day to help with this.
- We will ensure communal areas are cleaned very regularly.
- Pupils will be assigned a bubble and will stick only to that bubble throughout the day.
- The bubble size will grow to be a whole class rather than half a class as now.
- Desks and classes have been set up to maximise the distance between pupils.
- Your child should wear their school uniform as usual.
- Please send your child with their own labelled water bottle.



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Further changes may be necessary depending upon new government advice. We will let you know if the advice changes. We will email you more information on September 2nd about the restart.

Transport

- We continue to encourage families and pupils to walk or cycle/scoot to school where this is practical. This is a healthy option and a contribution to protecting our environment.
- Where older pupils need to travel to school by train or by bus, they must wear a protective face covering and dispose or store this safely when they arrive at school. We have free face coverings should your child require one.

Why come back?

It has now been widely documented that keeping children out of school and away from education is having a negative impact upon their health and well-being, never mind their education. It has also been documented that children's health seems to be less impacted by corona virus than other people and therefore the right place for them to be is in school. The longer children and young people spend out of an education setting, the greater the impact will be across all areas of their learning and development. We know that the number of coronavirus cases has decreased from its March peak when we were forced to close, and the risk to children and young people of becoming severely ill from coronavirus is very low. We know that there have been zero Covid19 cases in school since reopening. We are pleased to be opening our doors for all our pupils in September.

Thank you again for your patience and for your cooperation during this difficult time. I hope that this letter has helped provide some reassurance needed to support your child's return to school in September. As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the school. We are excited to be welcoming back all our children in September. We have been missing you all.

Yours sincerely,

The Lucas Vale Team