



FEDERATION

The Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale Federation
Executive Headteacher: Mr. Mickey Kelly

24th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, the government has announced that schools should fully reopen from Monday 8th March 2021. This means all children are expected to be in school and we are eagerly preparing to welcome them back.

As you all know, we have returned from a lockdown before so the children will be used to how the day runs and staying in bubbles as we are aiming to keep things as they were before Christmas to lessen the disruption to the children's return.

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory from Monday 8th of March, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If you have received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance.

We will not be continuing with our remote education offer at this time because children are supposed to be in school. If the advice changes, we are ready to resume remote education straightaway. We dearly hope we will not have to.

Safety measures

Arrangements for the return are as before and are as follows:

1. We have created class bubbles, in line with scientific advice to reduce contact and crowding in school. We also want to keep parents as socially distanced as possible. To facilitate these, we have various start and finish times of the day and breaktimes and lunchtimes. Children will go directly to their classrooms once they come through the gates **from Monday 8th of March.**
All gates will be open from 8:45am and children will start their day at 8:55am; we will have a staggered end to the day.

- **Reception** to use the **Reception gate on Lucas Street.** Reception will start at **8:45** and finish at **3:00pm.** Teachers will be at the gate to meet and greet parents and children.
- **Nursery – Ms McCarthy and Ms Crawley will be at the gate to meet the children from 8:45am**
- **Years 1 and 2** to finish at **2:55pm**
- **Years 3 and 4** to finish at **3:05pm.**
- **Years 5 and 6** to finish at **3:15pm**

Gates on Tanners Hill and Lucas Street will both be open at the start and end of the day.

Staff will be at the gate to welcome our children and parents.

If you arrive after 9:00am, please use the main gate on Tanners Hill.



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2. Parents will not be allowed onto the school grounds unless they have to speak to someone in the office. We ask that parents respect the social distancing guidelines by waiting their turn outside of the office.
3. Children will sanitise their hands at designated stations before entering the building. You can provide your child with a hand sanitise if you wish.
4. Children should only take essential items to school such as their packed lunch and book bag.
5. We will be doing everything in our power to limit the risks to all pupils and staff when they come to school e.g., ensuring good personal hygiene, keeping them in 'bubbles' (class-based), they will only play with children from their own class and bubble, the bubbles will have their own playground space and they will also have lunch as a bubble.
6. Pupils will wear uniform to school daily, except on P.E. days, when they will wear P.E. kits to school. Teachers will inform you of these days if there are changes to the days.
7. We are asking that children bring a bottle of water to school. They will be allowed to top up their bottles once empty. **Kindly label the bottles clearly** with your child's name and year group. The water fountains have been turned off to comply with safety rules.
8. **If a pupil shows any symptoms of the virus in school, we will inform parents that they need to collect their child immediately.** That child will need to be tested and we do have a few tests in school which the parent will need to administer and send off to the testing centre. Until the test comes back negative, the child and their family will then need to self-isolate at home. Once the test has come back negative, it is safe for the child to return to school, and no one needs to self-isolate anymore.
9. If a member of staff shows any symptoms of the virus, they will also be required to take a test, and will not return to school until they have a negative result confirmed. If this results in any changes to the staffing arrangements for you pupil, we will inform you.

Curriculum

Although there will need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we will still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum. Our staff are experts at knowing what a child needs to do next, so this year will be no different.

Our current plan is to keep teaching our curriculum as we would normally do, with the understanding that pupils may have to work very hard this year to make sure they do not fall behind. In most cases, pupils will have the same teacher they had last academic year, so the transition will be easier. We will be doing additional PSHE lessons to support our pupils' mental health and well-being.

Pastoral support

We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils. Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support on returning to school, for example, if they



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are feeling anxious about coming back or they have experienced bereavement. Kindly contact your child's class teacher, Ms. Hilton or the school leaders to do this.

Our current plans to support your children's wellbeing during this time are:

- We will be increasing the amount of PSHE sessions that we do weekly in order to address some of the needs of those pupils who may have been adversely affected by the lockdown.
- We have a bespoke plan for our SEND pupils and Ms. Hilton (SENDCO) will be more than happy to share further information about these plans with the relevant families.

If you have any questions or concerns about the points, we have set out above, please get in touch with us by email - admin@lucasvale.lewisham.sch.uk

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received so far from the school community. We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice. Most importantly, we just want to get our pupils back. We have missed them all.

Warm regards,

Ms. Cobblah