The Griffin Federation
Learning Together for Excellence

September Opening

Term begins to all children from Year 1 to Year 6 on Thursday 3rd September 2020

Timings:
The playground gates will open at 8:40am. We will use both the Anne Road and Bridge Road entrances. At collection time, parents should wait at the fire doors for each classroom – ensuring social distancing. Portugal and Canada classes should be collected from outside the playground near Spain and USA classes.

Class	Arrival Timeslot	Departure Timeslot
China and Australia	8.40am	3pm
France and Italy	8.45am	3.05pm
Brazil, Mexico and Canada	8.50am	3.10pm
USA, Spain and Portugal	8.55am	3.15pm

Siblings may go into school at the time slot for the youngest child, pick up times should be as above, we appreciate that this will mean you may have a brief wait; we ask you to ensure you are socially distancing on the playground and outside school and thank you for your patience.

Staff will be on hand to direct the children and welcome them back. Hand sanitiser stations will be located outside each of the classrooms, children will enter the playground via the gates, walk to their classrooms, where they will sanitise before entry.

We respectfully ask that everyone makes every effort to arrive, and collect children, during their time-slots.

Reception children will have a phased return in September. They will start at 9am on 7th September – separate letters have been sent to parents to explain this.

13th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have heard the government announcement that schools will be open for all pupils' full-time from September 2020. Our school has remained open for children of key workers since March and has been welcoming pupils in different year groups back to school since June. We approached this with great caution, reviewing all the scientific advice to ensure that we could be as safe as possible. This has gone extremely well, as our safety measures and risk assessments were well planned to ensure safety.

We are delighted that we can now look forward to seeing all our pupils back in September. We have been very busy over the last couple of weeks planning, completing new and detailed risk assessments, and working out exactly what school will look like and feel like when your child returns.

The Government has stated: '*Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)*'.

We understand that some of you and your children will be anxious about returning in September, after some months out of school. We've worked hard to consider how we group pupils together, ensure that we reduce contact between different groups of pupils. Please be reassured that we are taking exceptional measures to make our schools as safe as can be. We have enhanced cleaning during the day and deep cleaning every evening.

We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for all pupils, and will also be providing additional opportunities to support learning where this is required. Although very many of our pupils have worked hard using our remote learning resources provided by our dedicated teachers, we are fully aware that learning has been lost.

We are all determined that your children will catch up quickly and we're adapting our curriculum to make sure that they get the learning and knowledge that they need to achieve success in the future. Your children deserve a great, and safe education – we will not let them down.

In preparation, there are some key points that you need to be aware of to ensure that your child is safe. Please be aware some details may change; as the situation changes across the country, we will keep you updated via email and on our Facebook page.

1. You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you MUST inform the school.

2. Attendance at school will be compulsory for the vast majority of children. The government has relaxed the rules on attendance during lockdown. However, this will change in September. The government guidance says: *'Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term."*

3. Pupils may not wear facemasks. The government advice is quite clear that this is not necessary. If face coverings are used on public transport to get to school, they must be removed and safely disposed of or stored before entry to the building.

4. Your child will be expected to follow strict behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other pupils, and keeping their hands clean. Pupils will be expected to wash their hands regularly, and/or use hand sanitiser.

5. Our school lunch provision will return in September, and lunches will be available again. Pupils eligible for free school meals will return to having their lunch at school, and will no longer receive food parcels. We will only be providing packed lunch in September, children eligible for Free School Meals and children in reception, year 1 and year 2 will have a meal provided for them. We will also be providing fruit for these children at playtimes. All other children should bring a packed lunch and snack with them daily.

6. Free School Meal vouchers for the summer have been ordered and you should receive your ecode via email from 17th July.

7. In order to maintain social distancing during social times, the playground and field will be zoned. It will be really important that your child stays within the area that they are told to.

8. It will be more important than ever that your child has their own equipment in school to ensure that this does not need to be shared. Each child will be provided with a set of equipment; please do not send pencil cases into school.

9. Pupils will be expected to wear school uniform. Long hair must be tied back and they should not wear jewellery or make up – including nail varnish and false nails. PE kits should be worn on PE days, details of these will be sent to you by your child's class teacher.

10. There will be staggered starts and endings to the school day. Please maintain social distancing, following any one-way systems that are marked on our playgrounds and paths. Due to social distancing guidelines, staff will be limited in how much support they can offer physically in getting children into school.

11. Children should bring in the following each day – their coat, lunch, water bottle and their book bags/reading books. They may bring a small bag into school but nothing else may be brought to school each day. Water bottles in particular are important as the children are /will not able to use the water fountains in school.

12. Parents will not be able to enter the school building; you should continue to communicate with school via email or telephone.

Your children are extremely important to us and we will do everything we can to ensure our school is as safe as possible, but we appreciate you may be concerned. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us via email on help@griffinfederation.co.uk We will monitor this email address daily during the holidays and will provide any support and guidance you may need.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Kind Regards

Karyn Wiles
Executive Headteacher