



Great Gaddesden C of E (V.A.) Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs S.M. Wickens

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Wednesday, 3rd June, 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

School Reopening

This week, the staff have been busy redesigning the school in order to get ready for phase one of the children's return, which starts tomorrow. It has been a great opportunity to declutter and the school is sparkling clean and extremely tidy.

I am writing to confirm the final arrangements for the reopening of school and to respond to frequently asked questions.

Curriculum

The curriculum for the remainder of this term will be quite different to the norm. It has been designed with the children's mental wellbeing as the main priority.

A range of activities and topics have been planned, with a focus on all pupils having the opportunity to talk and discuss with their peers and adults, if they choose.

We are so fortunate to have such a fabulous setting for our school and this is going to be a great advantage for us in the week ahead. All the groups will be spending as much time as possible outside, making full use of our environment. We will be going for walks in the water meadows, gardening, reading in the school garden, using the penfold, forest school area, playground and part of the churchyard. Following guidelines, we will not be currently using the climbing frame.

Groupings

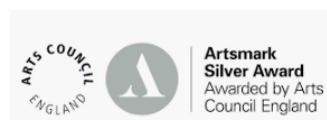
As previously described, the Government guidelines suggests that the children are grouped in self-contained bubbles. As far as possible, the same staff will remain within the bubble. Occasionally, it may be necessary for an additional adult to temporarily join a bubble, which has been recognised by the Government as a suggested means of staffing small groups.

The only time that a child will move from one bubble to another will be when a pupil from the keyworker group transfers to their class bubble. There will be a 24 hour break between this transfer.

Route

The route through the school playground has been prepared to give clear guidance for all children and adults to follow. It is essential for all children and their one adult who is dropping off, to following the red and white chain to the 'goodbye' point. The 'Good bye point' is marked with yellow and black tape. Please ensure that *only children cross over this tape*. Staff will be along the route to acts as guides and the class teacher will be waiting to welcome the children into the classroom. In order to ensure the safest environment for all, we request that parents do not gather at either the

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated'. Luke 6:31



entrance / exit of the exit gates. Each bubble will have a 15 minute time allocation which will prevent any congestion.

Return to school

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 , Year 6 or the keyworker group and you wish them to join their specific group at a later date, this is fine. However, in order for us to plan safely, please inform the office by 10 a.m. on Wednesday of the week prior to your child's return. This is essential so that we can plan safely for the following week. Please use the office email address :- admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk.

Phase One: start of day arrangements

A reminder of the arrival and collection times for the groups in Phase One are as follows :-

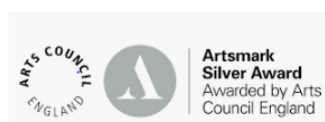
Year group	Drop off	Pick up time	Place of entry + exit
From 04/06/20 <u>Year 6</u>	8:45 – 9:00	2:15 – 2:30	School garden gate, via the door leading to the Breakfast Room
w/beg. 08/06/20 <u>Reception</u>	9:00 – 9:15	2:30 – 2:45	Double gate in EYFS fenced outdoor area
w/beg. 15/06/20 <u>Year 1</u>	9:15 – 9:30	2:45 – 3:00	Playground door leading to Y1/2 classroom
From 04/06/20 <u>Keyworker</u>	8:45 – 9:00	2:15 – 2:30	Playground door leading to Y1/2 classroom

I would like to thank you all for the amazing support that you have given the school during this time. Your understanding of the task in structuring a safe return to school has been very much appreciated. I wish you all the best of health and look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind regards,

Mrs S.M.Wickens

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Frequently asked questions

What does my child need to bring to school ?

All children will need to bring a named water bottle (full please). If they have a school reading book at home, please bring this in on the first day of return.

Staff will endeavour to hear the children read daily. However, following Government advice, no books will be sent home. This is to reduce the risk of cross contamination.

Is my child able to return to school at a later date?

Yes. It may be that you have taken the decision for your child to return to school at a later date. This is fine. New children will be able to join their year group at the beginning of each week.

How and when do I let the school know that I wish my child to join their year group?

Please contact the school office via email (admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk)

It is **essential** that this information is received by 10:00 a.m. on the Wednesday **before** your child will be returning. This is in order for the staff to have time to plan and make arrangements within the classroom for all pupils to be kept as safe as possible.

Please note that no pupil will be allowed to join their cohort without prior warning as this would jeopardise the safety of all children and staff.

What support will be in place to support the pupils' wellbeing?

Prior to all children returning to school, a questionnaire for them to complete will be emailed home. We ask that using the link provided, the completed copy is returned to school. This will enable the staff to identify potential areas of need and put supporting measures in place. This will include a series of activities centred around an appropriate book.

As a school, we have purchased a range of age appropriate books, which cover potential areas of concern following the Covid-19 pandemic e.g. Silly Billy by Anthony Browne, Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival. These will be used within groups and linked activities planned e.g. making a worry doll.

Opportunities to consider positive aspects of recent weeks have been planned, including activities relating to filling a time capsule. We have a shiny, new capsule that we will fill with interesting items. We plan for this capsule to be buried in the school grounds during the blessing of the school next September.

Practical prayer related activities will be introduced as part of the children's daily routine. This will give them the opportunity to reflect and carry out a practical activity, either as a group or independently.

The curriculum will focus on offering discrete opportunities for talking to each other and socialising again, after such a long period within small family units. Examples of such activities will include local walks , gardening and outside activities.

Mrs Canham (Inclusion leader) and I have worked with staff to complete an assessment of Individual Needs for each class. We have considered each child and the way in which we can ensure their return to school is a successful and positive one. These assessment of need for each pupil will be reviewed weekly and amended, in order to ensure we are supporting pupils effectively.

If you have any concerns or additional information that you feel would be helpful, please get in touch with the school, by email or by phone.

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