

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are absolutely delighted to be fully open for all pupils next Monday (8th March). We have missed the pupils immensely and are eager to resume to normal(ish) school life. I expect that, similar to our full reopening in September, the pupils will come back with an abundance of enthusiasm and confidence: they demonstrated tremendous adaptability and resilience and I have no doubt that this will be the same for the March reopening.

The school will operate similarly to the Autumn Term, where we will strictly follow our Phase 3 protocols and procedures. For further detail, please carefully read the protocols and procedures so that you are informed and clear of what the school is doing to minimise risk and what is required of you and your children in order to reduce risks. This document has been regularly reviewed and updated since its inception at the start of the academic year in September 2020. The most recent changes, from previous versions are in red.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/gadevalleyjuniorhertfordshire/UploadedDocument/75183eec1bb74b55bd96f8014a61fa80/phase-3-full-opening-plan-6-march-2021.pdf>

Listed below are some key reminders for the school reopening:

Drop Off and Collection

Our drop off and collection times will remain the same, as shown below:

Drop-off	Classes	Collection
8:40am	Reception Year 3	2:50pm
8:50am	Nursery Year 5	11:50am 3:00pm
9:00am	Year 2 Year 4	3:10pm
9:10am	Year 6 Year 1	3:20pm

I would like to remind you of the drop-off and collection procedures that we have and how important it is for you to 'play your part' in keeping the school open and safe.

The key expectations that we would like you to adhere to:

- Keep your distance (maintaining a 2m distance at all times).
- One adult only per family on the school grounds.
- Please do not congregate in or around the school grounds.
- Enter and exit using the one-way system.
- Please arrive to drop-off and collect at the allocated time – please do not arrive early.
- To further reduce transmission, we would like all adults to wear a face covering whilst in the school grounds.

Please try and arrive no earlier than five minutes before your allotted time. If you are walking, please time your walk so you arrive at the correct time and if you are driving (and arrive early) please wait in your vehicle until the correct time. I must stress how important it is to adhere to the class times so that we can reduce the amount of people on or around the school site. Please also note that siblings should be dropped off at the earliest time and collected at the latest time.

Teacher Communication

We will continue to use e-mail as the main form of communication for non-urgent matters. Please continue to use the class e-mail address, for example *year1@gadevalley.herts.sch.uk*. Please note that the teachers are unlikely to respond immediately, but will try to respond within 48 hours. If you have any urgent messages, please contact the office.

Behaviour Policy

At Gade Valley Primary School we aim to maintain a secure, caring and stimulating environment in which children are encouraged to have respect for themselves and each other. Whilst expectations in our Positive Behaviour Policy remain pertinent, it is necessary, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, to make some adjustments for the safety of all pupils and staff. The behaviour policy amendments are to be used in conjunction with, and read alongside, the Positive Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and E-Safety Policy. As per the DFE guidance, the approved positive behaviour policy amendments include: arrivals, departures and moving around the school; hand washing and hygiene; safe distancing; toilets; break times; rewards; behaviour in school; and pupils working at home.

Website

I would like to thank you for all of your positive feedback, complimenting the information that we have given to you and the children. All previous letters, documents and information are stored on the website: Covid-19 Pandemic – Updates and Information
<https://www.gadevalley.herts.sch.uk/coronavirus-updates/>

Newsletter

Our popular and much anticipated fortnightly newsletter will recommence next week.

Curriculum

The aim for the remainder of this term is to have all the children back and operate as safely as possible; the recovery curriculum will form the foundation of learning.

Face Coverings

Face Coverings will be worn by staff when they are moving around the building and when they are coming into close contact with children. In addition, we request that face coverings are worn by adult visitors when on the school grounds and in the school building. Please note that, pupils do not need to wear a face covering.

Testing

You may be aware that all school staff have been asked by the Department for Education (DfE), to take lateral flow tests (LFT) each week. At Gade Valley, the tests are carried out twice weekly so that any member of staff who may be carrying the virus can be identified and asked to isolate in order to control the spread. Should a member of staff have a positive result, they will need to self-isolate and their bubble will temporarily stay at home. They will then have to go to a test centre to have a PCR test in order to confirm the result. If this is also positive the bubble which they are part of will close for an isolation period of up to ten days.

Parents and household members of school aged children will be invited to do a LFT twice a week. Schools will not be expected to be involved with this testing in any way. Details are still being finalised, but we hope to provide further information later this week. Please note that primary school pupils will not be asked to test at this time.

School Lunch

From the first day of children coming back, the school will be offering a range of hot lunch options or a packed lunch. Pupils will continue to eat lunch in their classroom.

Early Bird (before school) and Night Owl (after school) Wraparound Provision

Both clubs will resume on March 8th – please contact the school office if you require this provision.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Extra-curricular clubs will not take place during the Spring Term - this will be reviewed for the Summer Term.

Parent Teacher Consultations

We will have parent/teacher consultations on the week beginning of May 3rd. This will allow enough time for your children to settle back in to school and for the teachers to be able to form appropriate learning targets. It is more than likely that these consultations will be telephone based. We will write to you nearer the time with further details.

Reading

From the first day back, your child will be given a reading book to take home. Over the next fortnight, the teachers will assess your child's reading to find out which colour level (EYFS + KS1) or Accelerated Reading level (KS2) they are currently working at.

Thank you again for all of your fantastic support – it is really appreciated by myself and all of the staff.

Best Wishes

Mr Barron