

Be nice, work hard, never give up

Greenleas Primary School
Green Lane
Wallasey
Wirral
CH45 8LZ

Tel No: 0151 639 1225 / Fax No: 0151 639 4349
Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Edwards

E-mail: schooloffice@greenleas.wirral.sch.uk

Website: www.greenleasprimaryschool.co.uk

Twitter: [@greenleasps](https://twitter.com/greenleasps)

28th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a lovely summer and are safe and well.

As we approach the start of the new academic year we have used the latest Government Guidance and advice from Public Health to develop our return to school plan and risk assessment. These will be made available on the school website, in the 'COVID Updates 2021' tab over the coming week. An additional challenge at the start of this new term is some long awaited building work is due to be completed over the next 12 weeks. This will restrict access into school via the main entrance for the duration of the work.

To support you understand the actions we are taking to help keep everyone safe (due to building work and current COVID guidance) and our expectations of everyone, the information below summarises the main points. We hope you find this information useful.

When will the children start back at school?

Children in Years 1 to 6 will start back at school on Friday 3rd September 2021.

Our new children who are joining Foundation 2 will have a staggered start from Monday 6th September (9:15am-11:45am). We have arranged some short 'getting to know you' session for all the new Foundation 2 children on Friday 3rd September (no uniform needed for the session). Families should have received communication with the time of the session (originally planned for Friday 2nd July 2021) and a start date for the following week. This email was sent on 30th May 2021 if you need a reminder. Most of our new children have never visited Greenleas so we want them to feel happy and comfortable starting school in a place that's feels familiar to them. Unfortunately we will be unable to accommodate parents during these sessions.

Children in F2 will start full time from Monday 13th September 2021 (8:55am-3:15pm)

Will children need to wear school uniform?

Yes, we expect all children to return to school wearing full uniform. A green cardigan or sweatshirt, with grey skirt or trousers and a white polo shirt. Black sensible school shoes, no trainers. Shoes with Velcro fastenings would be appreciated if your child is unable to do laces or tricky buckles so that staff do not have to support children do their shoes up.

We will continue with children wearing their PE kits on their PE day. The expectation is plain, black jogging bottoms/leggings/shorts, a white t-shirt and school green sweatshirt/hoodie. No football kits or fashionwear should be worn for PE. You will be informed about the day once we return.

Wearing the correct uniform is important to us as a school because it contributes to the pupils' sense of belonging to the school community; it allows them to have a sense of pride and self-respect for the way that they present themselves. Our uniform is a clear message to everyone that we care about each other and ourselves. Please note that trainers are not suitable everyday footwear.

Children only need to bring in necessary items – a water bottle, a small lunch box and a coat or sun hat if needed. We would like to continue to limit the amount of equipment brought into school, bags/rucksacks should be avoided.

All items MUST have your child's name clearly marked on them. Thank you for your support.

What happens if I need to use public transport to travel to school?

If you use public transport to travel to and from school, all adults and children over the age of 11 must wear a face mask. The Government currently advises against facemasks being worn by primary school children.

How should we travel to school?

We encourage all families to walk or cycle to school to reduce congestion, help the local environment and improve the children's fitness. We request that families who do have to travel by car avoid parking in Greenleas Close. This will support us reduce congestion around school during peak times.

The school day will return to pre-COVID times of 8:55am-3:15pm.

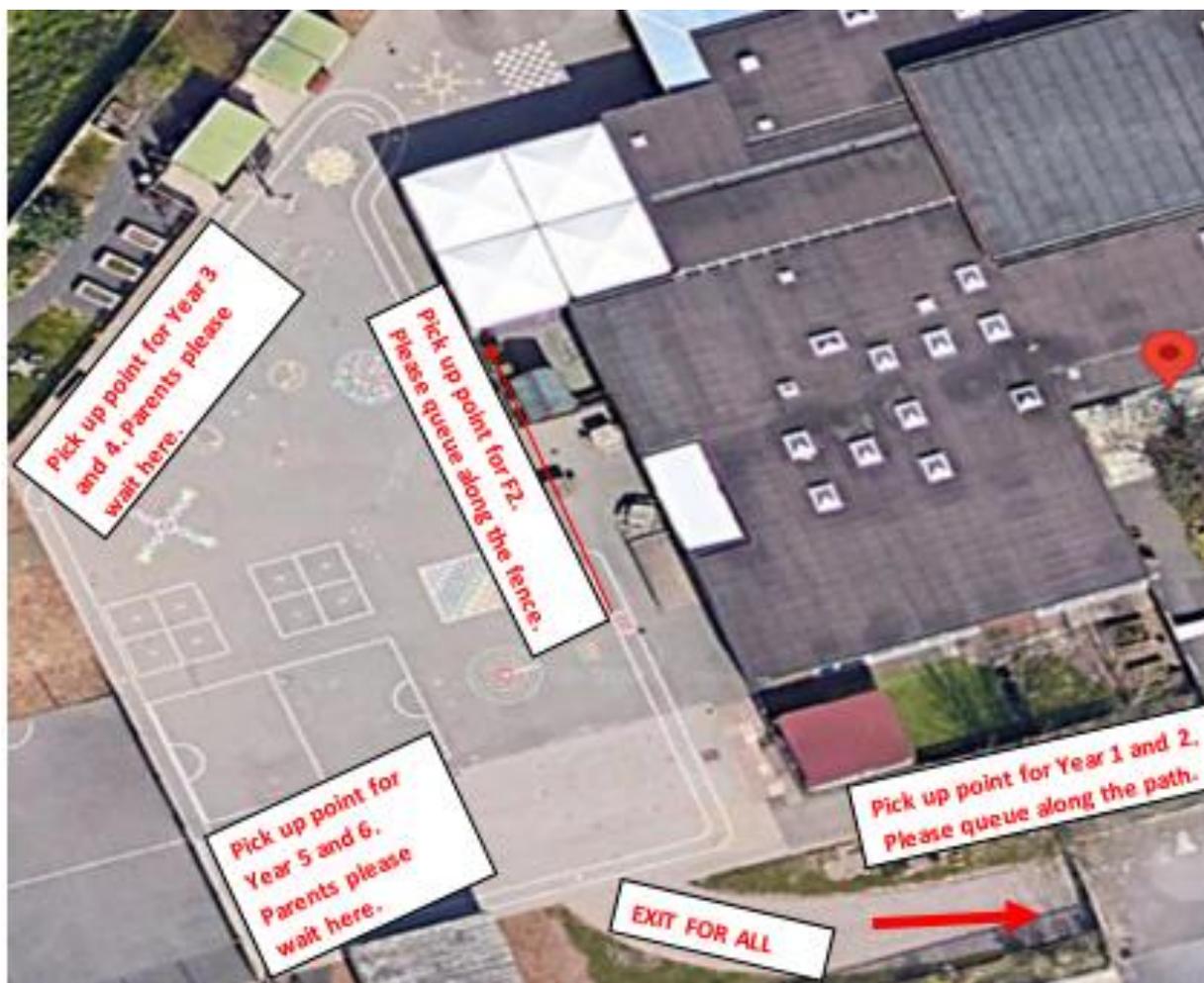
What measures are in place at the start and end of school?

In September, to reduce the congestion around the school gates we will be introducing a 'soft drop' at the gates between 8:45am and 8:55am. Adults and children should not queue before the gates are opened. Everyone should simply come from 8:45am onwards, staff will meet and greet the children at the gates allowing parents to leave the area swiftly. The gates will close at 8:55am for registration.

Children in F2, Y1 and Y2 to use the main pedestrian gate.

Children in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 to use the main driveway gates.

At the end of the day all children will exit via the playground with different collection areas for different year groups. See below. This is a key period for the school as it is the largest gathering on the site. In order for it to work safely for all, it will rely on cooperation and understanding. The gates to the playground will open at 3:10pm (please avoid queuing before this time). Children will be dismissed from their classes at 3:15pm. It is essential that this time is not used for socialising. Adults must leave the site with their children as soon as they have collected them.



We respectfully ask that everyone makes every effort to arrive, and collect children, at the relevant time to support the smooth running of systems.

What hygiene measures are in place? What are you doing to keep the school clean?

The school has had a deep clean during the summer break. We have cleaning kits in each classroom and open areas, including cleaning products, equipment and appropriate PPE. Surfaces will be cleaned regularly and any shared equipment will be cleaned in between use. Regular fogging of classrooms will also take place.

We have an extra cleaner on site each day to conduct a 'midday' clean as well as cleaners in the morning and after school.

Children are expected to wash their hands multiple times throughout the day; members of staff will be available to support and supervise handwashing where it is appropriate, and we have visual reminders in all the toilets and sink areas about good handwashing. We have plenty of tissues and remind children about good nasal hygiene. We have supplies of hand-gel throughout the school and children are expected to use this regularly (in addition to handwashing).

What equipment will be available to the children? What will they need to bring from home?

All children will be provided with the stationary that they will need. Any equipment that does need to be shared will be cleaned thoroughly in between uses. Children will be expected to bring a named water bottle to school each day. Any reading books/resources that are sent home will be cleaned/quarantined before being put back out for use. We request children do not bring in personal items from home.

Do the normal rules and expectations still apply? (Be Nice, Work Hard, Never Give Up!)

Absolutely! We have very high expectations for behaviour and attitude at Greenleas and we expect all children to meet our expectations.

Our home/school agreement has been updated to reflect the recent changes to government guidance. You will receive a copy of this next week. It would be very helpful if you would talk through the school expectations and routines with your child, particularly if the routine at home has changed during lockdown.

How will you make sure the children settle into their new class and teachers? How are you going to support their wellbeing?

In order to meet our children where they are at we will be focusing highly on our nurturing, relationship building approach. We will continue to prioritise their well-being including lots of personal and social education, well-being and creative/active learning. I know that some of you are concerned about your child's move to a new class and their missed education during the pandemic. Please don't worry, the teachers have been working hard on our curriculum for the next academic year and how to ensure that all children are given the best possible chance to continue to develop academically, socially and emotionally.

All our teaching teams will receive further training on next week's Staff Development Days about strategies to support wellbeing and our curriculum offer for 2021-22.

What will happen at lunchtime?

Whilst the building work is taking place school lunches will continue to be served to the children in their classrooms. Lunches must be booked via ParentMail and for Key Stage 2 children, paid for through Parent Pay. The cost of our lunches for KS2 (Y3-6) has increased this year to £2.34 per day. Children can bring a packed lunch; parents must ensure the lunch box is cleaned thoroughly every day.

The children will stay inside to eat for 30 minutes and have 30 minutes outdoor playtime with their year group. There will no longer be specific zones for each class to play in. Physical activity will be encouraged outside.

Communication during the school day.

If you need to contact us during the school day please use email (schooloffice@greenleas.co.uk) or telephone. During the building work the Office Team's location does not give immediate access or visibility to the main entrance. Therefore, if you need to collect your child during the school day, please telephone the Office on arrival and we will bring your child around to the main pedestrian gate. Please be patient as it may take longer than previously to communicate with us.

During the building work, we respectfully ask that everyone makes every effort to ensure their children arrives punctually and with the resources they need for the day to support the smooth running of the school.

Public Health Update

I have been asked to share the following information with you from Wirral Public Health.

We are writing in light of changes made to national policies on self-isolation and to provide information on how COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or adults who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

You can take a PCR test at one of our testing centres [in Birkenhead, Bebington, Liscard and Heswall](#) or request one to be delivered to your home [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
-

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via [NHS UK](#) (www.nhs.uk) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.

Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19?

Your child should not attend school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

Plans for COVID-19 testing in Secondary Schools

All secondary school pupils (year 7 and above) should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

Secondary school pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. By ensuring your child correctly carries out the lateral flow tests, it will be easier to spot asymptomatic (symptom-free) spread amongst pupils. A positive Lateral Flow Test should always be followed up with a PCR test and the person testing should isolate until the results are back.

We will provide further details on whether testing will continue when we are made aware.

Nursery and primary school pupils are not asked to test at this time

ACCESSING COVID-19 TESTING IN WIRRAL

PCR tests can be booked at any of the DHSC run sites that operate Monday – Sunday 8am – 8pm. To find your nearest PCR testing centre in Wirral visit: www.wirral.gov.uk/test

Details of how to access local testing can be found at: www.wirral.gov.uk/test

PCR tests for home delivery can also be ordered by calling 119.

Many thanks in advance for your co-operation. I look forward to seeing you all next week, it will be lovely to have everyone back.

Warmest Wishes, enjoy the rest of the holidays.

Mrs Sharon Edwards
Headteacher