



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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

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

At the end of the Summer Term you received information regarding the return to school and how it will look in September. I know many of you may still have lots of questions about the reopening of school to all pupils so I thought you'd appreciate an update on our arrangements.

At Greenleas, we have used the latest Government Guidance to develop an action plan and carry out a risk assessment. This will be made available on the school website, in the 'School Reopening' tab over the coming week. To support you understand the actions we are taking to help keep everyone safe and our expectations of everyone, the information below summarises the main points in the risk assessment. 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 Thursday 3rd September.

Our new children who are joining Foundation 2 will have a staggered start from Monday 7th September. We have arranged a short 'getting to know you' session for all the new Foundation 2 children on Wednesday 2nd September (no uniform needed for the session). Families should have received communication with the time of the session and a start date for the following week. 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.

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.

Children will not need to bring in their PE kit. On PE days children should come into school wearing their PE kit/plain tracksuit. You will be informed about the days once we return.

We request that no bags/rucksacks are brought into school. We need to limit the amount of equipment that is brought into school. Children must only bring in necessary items - a water bottle, small lunch box and a coat or sun hat if needed. Cloakroom spaces get very messy because of bulky bags and we need to keep them tidy. We do not want staff or children to have to pick up other children's belongings. We wish to keep our school community safe.

All items MUST have your child's name clearly marked on them.

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 parents 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 during our staggered starts/finishes.

What measures are in place to reduce mass gatherings of parents and children at the start and end of school?

There will be staggered starts and endings to the school day. A one way system will be in operation along the school path to support social distancing. It is essential that all children arrive and leave at their designated start or finish time. We request that children are brought to school by one adult only. All adults must always maintain social distancing to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus and because they are role models for the children about how to behave in public places. Please avoid congregating or waiting on/or around the school site before or after school.

Year Group	Entrance Time Slot	Exit Time Slot	Location
Bubble Foundation 2	9:00am 9:30am (w/c 7.9.2020)	3:20pm 11:45am (w/c 7.9.2020)	Dropped off at main gate
Bubble Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2)	8:55am	3:15pm	Dropped off at main gate
Bubble Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3 and Y4)	8:50am	3:10pm	Dropped off at main gate
Bubble Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5 and Y6)	8:50am	3:05pm	Dropped off at back gate (car park will be closed to cars from 8:45am-9:15am)

Staff will be on hand to meet and greet.

All children will exit through the main gate. The children will be lined up on the playground in their class bubbles. Parents can enter through the gate, staff will dismiss your child when you get to the front of the line and then the exit will be via the double gates – a walking area will be coned off for safety.

Anyone who does not arrive on time will need to wait by the main office sign for assistance. We respectfully ask that everyone makes every effort to arrive, and collect children, during their allocated time-slot to avoid large gatherings around the school area.

I use a childminder/wrap around care to drop-off and collect my child, what arrangements are in place for them?

Child minders must drop-off and collect your child according to the staggered times/route above. It is the responsibility of parents to share the details with childminders and make sure they are clear about the arrangements. We have shared our school plans with other providers to ensure they are clear on our expectations and support procedures we have put in place. The recent guidance says:

'Where it is possible to do so, providers should also try to work with parents, the schools or early years settings which children attend to ensure, as far as possible, children can be kept in a group with other children from the same bubble they are in during the school day. This will minimise the amount of mixing between different groups of children outside of school, and therefore the risk of infection. The government will keep group sizes under review. Where it is not possible to group children in the same bubbles as they are in during the school day, you should seek to keep children in consistent groups, as far as possible, and frequently review these groups to minimise the amount of 'mixing' (that is, the number of different people each child comes into contact with). For example, when new children register for your provision, you may wish to firstly determine whether they attend the same school or early years setting as other children in your setting and group them together if appropriate.'

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.

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

We have removed lots of the equipment and items from the classrooms to ensure surfaces are easily cleaned. Many soft furnishings have been removed from classrooms.

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).

How will you make sure children are socially distant with each other?

Children will be placed in class bubbles of up to 30 when in the building and phase bubbles at break/lunchtime. In order to maintain social distancing during social times, the playground and field will be zoned for each class bubble. We will be encouraging your child to remain within the area that they are told to. Playtimes will be staggered so that fewer children are outside at the same time. This way, the groups will not routinely mix with each other. Each group will have their own play equipment in their zone and their supervising adult will initiate games with the children.

Children will not move around the site as much as they used to however, when they do, they will use social distancing markers that are on the floor throughout the whole site to help them. We recognise that social distancing with the younger children is a challenge so we will remind them regularly about it, but we cannot guarantee that it can be maintained with the younger children. The government guidance states that schools do not need to insist on social distancing with the younger children. We want our children to learn through play and interaction with others, with good hygiene routines in place.

How will staff social distance?

Staff will continue to maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible. Our staffroom will not be used for staff to congregate. We will not allow visitors or parents into the school building to maintain good social distancing, however we are still available to talk to parents either over the phone, email or online meetings when needed.

What will the classrooms look like?

The classrooms do look a bit sparser than they did, this is so that the surfaces are easily cleaned. In Years 1 to 6, the desks have been arranged into front facing rows. Teachers are planning learning activities that reduce the need for close face to face interaction. Adults will give feedback to the children at the adults' level rather than the adult moving to the child's level. In the Foundation Stage, we will allow a more 'free flow' approach to the provision so that the children can learn through play. In Year 1, we will support the children with their transition from Foundation 2. They will work on Continuous Provision activities in small groups but will be expected to distance themselves as much as possible.

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

All children will be given their own stationary to avoid the sharing of equipment such as pens and pencils. 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. This will stay on their desk to reduce movement around the classroom. Any reading books/resources that are sent home will be cleaned after they have been returned and will only be permitted to go back onto bookshelves after 72 hours.

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. Your child will be expected to follow strict behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other children, and keeping their hands clean. Children will be expected to wash their hands regularly, and/or use hand sanitiser. Some children may need additional support and guidance to meet the expectations and our team will be able to provide this.

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 after such a difficult time?

In order to meet our children where they are at we will be focusing highly on a nurturing, relationship building approach. We will prioritise their well-being and emotional response to the pandemic by including lots of additional personal and social education, well-being and creative/active learning. I know that some of you are concerned about your child's missed education. Please don't worry, the teachers have been working hard on our curriculum for the next academic year and how to ensure that children are given the best chance to catch up on any lost learning and knowledge that they need to achieve success in the future. Over the year, our curriculum and timetable will be more flexible to meet the different needs of the children who return to school. We all greatly appreciate your support and encouragement with this and value our strong Greenleas community relationship very highly.

All our teaching team will receive further training on the Staff Development Days in September about strategies to support wellbeing and our recovery curriculum.

How will you help the children to 'catch up'?

When the children have settled in, their teachers will assess them (low stake, high impact retrieval practice) over the first few weeks and will plan support for anyone who needs additional help in Reading, Writing and Maths. All teachers and leaders have reviewed the curriculum and adjusted plans so that it enables the children to revisit aspects they may need to, but also supports rapid progress. As we all know, reading is very important, so, by reading frequently with your child at home they will keep up to speed.

What will happen at lunchtime?

This week you should have received a ParentMail advising what the school lunch offer is. School lunches will be served to the children and they will eat with the rest of the children in their bubble. Lunches must be booked via ParentMail and for Key Stage 2 children, paid for through Parent Pay. The cost of our lunches has not increased this year; it is still £2.30 per day. Lunch will be served in the classrooms for all children. 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. Like morning playtime, each bubble will have their own zone on the playground and they will not be allowed to mix with other bubbles of children.

What happens if a child gets ill in my child's bubble?

No child or adult showing signs of infection are allowed on the premises. Staff and pupils are required to have immediate tests if they show symptoms. If a child is sent home with symptoms, we expect parents arrange a test for the child. We will request evidence of a negative test result (i.e. the text message from the NHS) before the child is allowed back to school. Any child who displays any symptoms of Covid must be collected immediately and we expect parents and families to make provision if they are not based in the local area during the school day. When the child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with a window. The adult supervising the child will wear full PPE clothing when dealing with a suspected case; this includes a face mask, face shield/ visor, apron and gloves.

What if my child, or one of our family members, becomes ill?

If any child in school tests positive for Covid, every child and member of staff in their bubble will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. If a member of a child's household tests positive for Covid, the child and the household members must self isolate for 14 days. The other children and staff in the child's group do not have to self-isolate.

What if I live with an extremely clinically vulnerable household member? What if my child is still shielding?

If any families have a household member who will continue to shield after the 1st August, please contact the school office on Tuesday 1st September so that an appropriate risk assessment can be carried out.

The government guidance states that all children will be expected to attend school from September and we want to work with any parents who are worried to reassure you that we are taking every precaution to keep our community safe. If any parents have any questions, please contact the school office and we will endeavour to answer your queries. Everyone's health and safety is our priority and we hope that, by reading this information, you are reassured that the school staff are taking every possible measure to create a happy, healthy and safe learning environment for all our community.

It is important to remember that, whilst school may be a very different experience at the start of this new academic year, this situation is only temporary. We are a wonderful school family. We care for each and value what we have. It won't be long before we create a sense of (new) normality. It will be lovely to have everyone back.

Many thanks in advance for your co-operation. I look forward to seeing you all next week (from a distance of course!)

Warmest Wishes

Mrs Sharon Edwards
Headteacher