



Grove Primary School

Learn Together.....Grow Individually

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope that you continue to stay safe and are enjoying this time with your children.

Homeschooling and home working continue to be a challenge for my family but we are keeping busy, keeping active and looking after each other. I'm sure my children are benefiting more from the things we are doing together as a family rather than the times we are attempting to home school. As parents, you know what works best for your family so please don't worry if homeschooling is just too tricky. Do what's best for you.

Most of the phone calls home have now taken place. If you did not receive your phone call and would like one, please email office@groveprimaryschool.org.

The teachers enjoyed catching up with the children and the feedback tells us that many of your children enjoyed this too. We look forward to speaking to you all again in a couple of weeks' time.

Other feedback we have received relates to two main questions:

1. When and how will schools reopen?
2. What will happen with classes for September?

The answer to the first question is that we don't know yet. There is huge speculation in the media around when, which children, reduced numbers, reduced timetables etc. However, this is just speculation at the moment and we wait to hear from the Government and Department for Education. (The media suggest this news could come this Sunday).

What I can tell you, is that The Active Learning Trust, who are responsible for Westwood Primary and Grove Primary, are in the process of formulating a plan for the safe reopening of Active Learning Trust schools which will be further developed following the Government announcements, when they come. The safety of children, staff and families is paramount to this. Further information will follow as soon as we have it.

There has also been speculation about children remaining in current classes/year groups in September. At present, the plan for Westwood Primary and Grove Primary is that children would move to the next year group in September.

We are aware that the children will not have completed or missed out on part of the year they are currently in. This will be taken into account and learning will start where it left off, but in their new year group, in their new class, with their new teacher.

If we return earlier than September, they will remain in their current class.

For children at Grove Primary, where we have mixed classes, the following arrangement will take place:

- Parents will be aware that for our new 20/21 Reception intake, class teachers and classes have been assigned and you have been informed.
- A decision has also been taken to keep the 19/20 Year 1 children in their current classes with their current teachers as they move to Year 2.
- Current class groupings (19/20) for Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 children will be reviewed by school staff.
- For some children in Year 3 and Year 5, this may mean remaining with their current teacher, but not for all.
- Class grouping will be decided based on the following:
 - Even split of gender
 - Even split of year groups
 - Even split of SEND needs
 - Even split of academic ability
 - Teacher knowledge of friendships, which children work best together etc.

For some parents, these decisions about which class your child is in can cause some anxiety. We ask that you trust our professional judgments in that like you, we only want the very best for your child. We know who they like/don't like, we know who they work well/don't work well with. You may even have previously shared that information with us. Please trust that we will make the right decisions for your child.

The information about your child's class, the name of their teacher and information about other adults working in the class will be shared with you when we send your child's school report to you at the end of June.

Information about transition and 'Meet the Teacher' sessions will be shared with you when we know more about the reopening of schools. Please be reassured that ensuring your child has a positive experience at school is extremely important to us and we will work hard to make sure their transition, whether they are new to our school or moving classes, is smooth and happy. We care deeply about all children who attend our schools and their wellbeing matters greatly to us.

A message to our Year 6 children: as we don't know for sure what the government's plans are regarding returning to school, we don't know whether we will see you back in class before you move to your high schools in September. But don't panic or get upset as, no matter what happens, we will make sure we celebrate all of your achievements during your time with us at Grove and give you a proper send off, as soon as it is safe for us to do so. You will always be part of our school family and arrangements will be put in place when we know more.

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times; it is very much appreciated. We love seeing what the children are getting up to so please continue to email things to us.

I am sure you will join me in my thanks to the staff working hard from home as well as Ross Hepburn from PE Shed and the school staff on the rota who go into school to look after our children of key workers. We are all in this together and couldn't do this without you.

Do not hesitate to contact us if needed through office@groveprimaryschool.org

Kind Regards

Rae Aldous

Executive Headteacher