



1st September 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your family have had a safe, healthy and restful summer. The new school year is about to begin and we are delighted to see all pupils back in class. I am sure your child is full of excitement at the prospect of starting a new year group but understandably a little nervous too. This sense of apprehension will undoubtedly have been exacerbated by the past few months and is entirely expected. I want to assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure that all our children feel safe, happy and can enjoy a much needed return to normality as speedily as possible. All staff are acutely aware that many pupils may find returning to school difficult; being sensitive to pupils' feelings at this time will be more important than ever. Regardless of the challenges we face, this is a time to be positive and optimistic because being at school has huge benefits for all, helping children to fulfill their potential as well as enhancing health and wellbeing.

As previously mentioned, we have dedicated our first INSET day on **Wednesday 2nd September** to saying hello and introducing ourselves, and giving you the chance to update us on any matters concerning you or your child. Obviously, you know your child better than anybody in the world, so this is a very important time to discuss with your child's class teacher any concerns you have. A google form was sent to all families on Friday with confirmation of appointment times. Please complete your form prior to the telephone conversation as it will provide vital information for the teacher in advance. If you are unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday, please feel free to complete the form to keep your child's class teacher up-to-date before the start of term.

All decisions regarding the full reopening have been made in accordance with government guidance and with the safety of all staff and pupils as our highest priority. At Grazebrook we have planned to mitigate risk at every stage. I felt it important to highlight the steps we have put in place, which will apply to all pupils:

- Line-ups and queues (for the dining hall/toilets) will be monitored to encourage 1+ metre social distancing. We strongly recommend where possible that pupils walk or cycle to school and avoid public transport.

- There will be staggered break and lunch times for different key stages, which will relieve pressure on communal areas such as the playground, handwashing facilities and the dining halls.
- There is additional cleaning provision throughout the school and regular cleaning/sanitising of touch points.
- Additional handwashing facilities have been installed in the playground and pupils will be instructed to wash, or sanitise, their hands upon entry to school, and regularly throughout the day.
- Regular ventilation of rooms and communal areas will help us to keep fresh air circulating.
- Year groups will be treated as ‘bubbles’ as extensively as possible to minimise contact between year groups.
- Pupils will be allocated an area of the playground which will be for the sole use of a single year group ‘bubble’.
- There will be staggered start and finish times to the school day for different year groups; this will allow for reduced footfall through the school gates. Our intention is to reduce the gap between year group bubbles to five minute intervals from 8.45-9am and 3.15-3.30pm by the 21st September if it is safe to do so.

Year	Start Time	Finish Time	Gate
Nursery	9.00am	3.30pm	Nursery gate on Yoakley Road
Reception	9.15am	3.45pm	Lordship Road (Orange - main gate, Purple - side gate)
Year 1	9am	3.30pm	Lordship Road (1G - main gate, 1B - side gate)
Year 2	8.45am	3.15pm	Lordship Road (1G - main gate, 1B - side gate)
Year 3	9.00am	3.30pm	Grayling Road
Year 4	8.45am	3.15pm	Grayling Road
Year 5	8.30am	3.00pm	Nursery gate, Yoakley Road
Year 6	8.30am	3.00pm	Grayling Road

- The Hackney Schools Safer Streets scheme has been expanded across the borough over the summer. This means that access for cars to Grayling Road will now be restricted from 8.30am - 9.30am and between 3pm - 4pm Monday to Friday. Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to access Grayling Road as normal during these times.

We hope these measures will reassure you and that you are looking forward to your child returning to school as much as we are looking forward to welcoming them back.

Kind regards,

Ms Nicole Reid and Mrs Katie Beecroft