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Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your patience whilst we have been busy working on plans to safely re-open the school in September for all children.

This is the letter I have been desperate to write since the 23rd March. We are so very proud of the resilience your children have shown throughout this time, they are a credit to you all and you too should feel proud of them.

As you will understand the organisation and the plans for a school of our size is complicated; I am sure that you will have many, many questions that you will want addressing. I hope that this pack of information answers your most pressing questions and helps to alleviate any worries you may have about your children returning to school.

The DfE released their guidance for the Autumn term at the end of last week. You may have read or seen in the media that schools are returning to 'normal'. However, in order to comply with Government advice and guidance it will still be necessary to continue with some of the modifications to systems and our school site we have had in place during the Summer Term.

It is very important therefore, that you read the information carefully.

The plans we are putting in place are based on the information current at this time and will likely need to be reviewed throughout the Summer to ensure our practices reflect whatever advice the government subsequently issue.

The current DfE and government guidance outlines key measures for prevention of an infection outbreak. In summary the key aspects for schools to consider are:

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have symptoms of COVID-19,
or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) wash hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4) continue with enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Response to any infection:

- 1) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 2) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- 3) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

In addition to the information included in the pack which is specific to the class your child is in, I am outlining below the measures we as a school are taking to ensure that school is a safe place for everyone.

Handwashing/ respiratory hygiene

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day including on arrival, before and after breaks, lunchtimes and outdoor activities as they have been successfully doing during the Summer Term. Tissues are readily available in all classes and children will be encouraged to use them. They will be reminded of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' to manage coughs and sneezes.

Cleaning

We have made modifications to our cleaning schedule to allow for frequent cleaning during the day and enhanced more thorough cleaning at the end of each day. Toilet areas will not be able to be cleaned after every use but will be subject to more frequent cleans. There will be a cleaner on site to allow this to happen.

Minimising contact

The government advises that children work in consistent groups and that these groups do not mix. We have allocated staff to work within consistent class 'bubble' groups. These class groups are staggered in and out of the building and at playtime and lunchtimes. Children with EHCPs will be working with one adult in addition to their class teacher.

Social distancing

The government recognises that maintaining social distance for young children is difficult. The guidance asks children to sit children side by side rather than face to face and that the teacher aims to keep a social distance from the children. Classes from Year 2 upwards will be organised in this way.

Managing arrival and departure from school

The government advises we use staggered starts or adjusting start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school. If you typically bring your child to school yourself we ask that only one adult enters the school grounds with your child and that you maintain a 2 metre distance from other parents and their children and follow the one way systems within the grounds.

Lunchtimes

Our current plan is that children will eat lunches in the classrooms. Children will be able to bring their own packed lunch if parents choose or there will be a school dinner option. We have been advised by catering services that the school dinner menu will be limited to one choice daily in the Autumn term. There will be a vegetarian option and any dietary needs will still be catered for. We will plan to provide a hot meal option for all of those entitled to a Universal Free School Meal in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and for those entitled to a Free School Meal across Key Stage 2. Parents of children in Key Stage 2 who would like to purchase hot meal options should liaise with Catering Services.

Illness Protocol

Included within your pack is our updated Attendance Information for parents and carers. This details our school protocol for managing a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

Out of Hours Childcare

We will be offering a limited breakfast childcare provision; please see information pack for details. We are working hard on plans to also provide some childcare afterschool. It is likely that we can provide after school childcare in year group bubbles on set nights until 5pm. We are asking that parents and carers who need this provision commit to a place over the full half term. Spaces will be limited. In order to support our planning, if you are already anticipating needing to use an afterschool childcare until 5pm, please can you indicate your requirements by completing the form in the link below:

<https://forms.gle/iG39nj2QBmXsc98W6>

I cannot at this stage make any guarantees that we will be able to meet all of your requirements, however, if we can help those families who need the childcare provision we will. We will make contact with those parents requesting childcare before September to finalise arrangements.

Curriculum and Learning

Greenfields has an excellent curriculum offer for its children. We will continue to offer a broad range of subjects for all of our children, whilst being mindful that we need to manage the anxieties of children sensitively. The first half of the Autumn Term will include a lot of outdoor learning; research proves that outdoor learning has a significantly positive impact on children's mental health and well-being. We are acutely aware that in order for your children to 'catch up' their missed academic learning we need to be addressing their wellbeing and ensuring that they are mentally healthy. We want your children to be confident, and happy to reengage with their school learning and see this as a priority in September.

Information about how we would continue with home/school learning as a result of a localised lockdown in the Autumn term will be provided as and when it is necessary.

School will resume for all children on Thursday September 3rd 2020

If you feel like you have any further questions or would like clarification on anything included within this information, we have set up a dedicated 'September' email address so that we can respond to your queries quickly:

september@greenfieldsprimary.org.uk

When I was appointed to become Headteacher in March, I couldn't have possibly foreseen the challenge that was looming over all of us. I would like to thank you all for your unwavering support, patience, trust and understanding and it fills me with enormous pride to lead our school in September.

All that is left for me to add, is that I hope you make time to enjoy the Summer holidays- I think you all deserve it!

With very kind wishes,

Mrs Ele Dobson

Headteacher Designate