



Grampian Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs. M. Murfin



National 'Outstanding Winner'
21st Century Learning Alliance Award

Sunday 3rd January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you managed to enjoy Christmas holiday despite it being very different to our usual festive period. Despite the difficulties, anxieties and restrictions we are all living with at the moment, I hope that you were able to enjoy some quality time with those whom you live with.

There have been several Government announcements throughout the break in relation to school reopening, so far this has not affected our plans which means **we will open tomorrow as planned.**

Derby is in tier 4 (stay at home) so we must continue to adhere to all safety guidance both in school and outside of school in order to help keep everyone as safe as possible. All of the safety measures we have put into place in school will continue. Parents and carers should have received some reminder texts in relation to entering and leaving the school site and limiting items brought in from home.

We will continue to review our safety measures in line with Department for Education and trust guidance as well as our own evaluation of how well they are working in school.

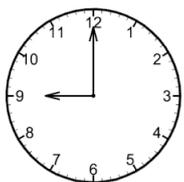
How you can help:

Do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in your household, has coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss/change to sense of smell or taste).



Keep a safe distance from other parents/carers (2 metres apart) when dropping off/collecting from school. Ideally, only one grown-up will drop off/collect to reduce crowding.

Wear a face covering/mask when on the school grounds.



Arrive on time (not early or late) and leave the school quickly once you have dropped off/collected. Do not stop for a chat!

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Being prepared for the future

During the Autumn term, we managed to avoid closing any of our bubbles. Although there was an element of luck involved, a large part of this was due to the robust and strictly adhered to protocols and procedures we have implemented in school and the hard work of the whole school community: the children, staff and parents.

We very much hope this can continue into the Spring term but we must also be realistic about the very real possibility of positive cases of COVID-19 occurring in school and of children therefore needing to self-isolate and continue their learning from home.

In addition, there is the possibility that the government may decide to partially or fully close schools if infection rates become excessively high. If children are required to stay at home, we will switch to providing remote education using Tapestry / Seesaw / Microsoft Teams. We will use these online platforms to deliver learning across the curriculum. It's important that you are ready for this as it could happen at any time.

Support for remote education

During the Autumn term, I have been working with the leadership team in order to try and overcome some of the barriers to accessing remote education. I would love nothing more than to provide every child with a device that could be taken home to support remote education – unfortunately this is not a reality. We have however been able to secure the funding, to the sum of £20K, to buy additional Ipads to support remote education. These Ipads will be distributed according to greatest need and issued on a case by case basis. Our starting point will be to prioritise our pupil premium children in Key Stage 2. Although the order has been placed, there is a considerable waiting time for these additional Ipads, however we are currently working with our ICT technician to prepare our existing school Ipads for use at home. It is vitally important that these devices are well cared for when they leave the school as they are a hugely valuable resource to our pupils and curriculum offer.

In school, we will be reminding the children how to access the online platforms and reminding them of what they are expected to complete in the event of them being unable to attend school. Tomorrow, the children will bring home a reminder letter regarding remote education which clearly outlines what is expected of children and parents/carers. In summary, if the children are unable to attend school, whether that be due to self-isolation, quarantining, bubble closure, partial or full school closure, the children will not be denied access to education.

Your sincerely,
Mrs. Murfin
Headteacher

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