



Tuesday 20th July

### **School Arrangements for end of term July 2021 and for the start of term September 2021**

Dear Parents and carers,

I am writing to you to share important arrangements for the end of term and the start of the new term.

#### **End of term and Holiday Hours**

The end of the Summer Term is Friday 23rd July 2021. Pupils will finish at 12.30pm on this day. Packed lunches will be available for lunch on that day.

The school phone line (020 3876 6555) will close at **4.30pm on Wednesday 28th July** and will reopen for enquiries between **9.30am -2.30pm from Monday 16th August - Friday 27th August**. During these times the school office email will also be checked [office@thegroveschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thegroveschool.co.uk)

Between 27th - 31st August the school office will be closed.

Normal school office hours will resume from **Wednesday 1st September**.

#### **Home testing for Covid-19**

We have seen a recent increase in positive Covid cases within the borough. Please make sure that your child continues with home testing using the lateral flow tests provided, ideally every Wednesday and Sunday. It is advised that you continue this through the summer holidays and into September too.

Please continue to report any positive test results to the NHS and immediately to school. There is more information later in this letter on the testing arrangements for September.

#### **Free School Meal vouchers**

The FSM voucher system has been extended for the summer holidays, we will be sending you the full amount in one voucher. A set sum of **£90 per pupil** will be issued on **Monday 26th July**. It can take up to 24 hours for the voucher to reach your inbox. If you do not receive your voucher, please check your junk mail folder. The voucher will come directly from **Wande** and will need to be redeemed in the usual way. If you have not received your voucher, the school office will be open on **Monday 26th-Wednesday 28th July** so please do get in touch during this time. All calls regarding FSM vouchers should come to the school office and not through Mrs Huseyin's direct line.

#### **Returning to School in September 2021**

Updated government guidance for schools on reopening in September was issued last week and can be accessed [via this hyperlink](#) OR at

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/07/06/parents-pupils-teachers-and-students-find-out-what-step-4-of-the-covid-roadmap-means-for-you/>

This guidance means that we can return to something much closer to ‘normal’ in September, although we will continue to implement additional health and safety measures initially. We of course will continue to watch out for any updates and inform you as soon as we know. Our priority continues to be keeping our pupils and staff as safe as possible and we will be updating our risk assessments to ensure we have contingency planning and risk management planning in place.

### **Important arrangements for the return to school and Covid testing**

Government guidance states that all **SECONDARY** pupils (year 7 and above) will need **2** Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests for their return to school in September. This is because we know the numbers of cases are rising rapidly for the 11-19 age group. By ensuring we have tested all secondary aged pupils we can identify any positive cases before the start of term and so help to prevent the possibility of Covid cases in school.

### **Onsite Testing 2nd and 6th September**

We will be opening the school for parents and carers to bring their secondary and post 16 children into school for testing (this will be year groups 7,8,9,10,11,12,13 & 14).

Parents and carers should bring their child to the school to get their tests done on **Thursday 2nd September** and 4 days later on **Monday 6th September**. See the table below for details and times.

If you are traveling by car, please come through to the car park. Those arriving by foot will come through the main entrance.

Testing will only take a few minutes and parents and carers should accompany their children. The test will be done on site and we will contact any parents of children who have tested positive. You will be encouraged to attend on both days as this will really support the school to open to all pupils safely on Tuesday 7th September.

If you are worried about testing your child we will be here to help and oversee the process. In extreme cases where your child cannot tolerate a tonsil swab, a nasal swab will suffice.

If you choose to test your child at home on Thursday 2nd and Monday 6th, we would kindly ask that you report the results to the NHS and share the results with the school.

### **Return Dates for September 2021**

**Primary** pupils will return on Monday 6th September as they are NOT required to take a LFD test.

Secondary pupils who have received 2 negative lateral flow tests will return on Tuesday 7th September.

<b>Date</b>	<b>School Opening Times for Covid LFD Testing</b>	<b>Year Groups who Being Tested</b>	<b>Year Groups coming into School as usual</b>
Thursday 2nd September	Between 9.30am-11.30am & Between 12.30pm - 2.30pm	<b>Secondary &amp; Post 16</b> 7, 8, 9 ,10, 11, 12, 13 and 14	No Existing pupils Only new pupil on transition
Friday 3rd			No Existing pupils Only

September			new pupils on transition
Monday 6th September	Between 9.30am-11.30am & Between 12.30pm - 2.30pm	<b>Secondary &amp; Post 16</b> 7, 8, 9 ,10, 11, 12, 13 and 14	<b>ALL Primary</b> (Year 1-6) pupils return to school 8.50am-3.15pm
Tuesday 7th September	All Primary pupils All secondary pupils with negative lateral flow tests return  Normal School Day 8.50am - 3.15pm		

### **Holidays Abroad**

Please keep up to date with the government guidelines and arrangements for travelling abroad. These are changing frequently and you will have to keep up to date with the quarantine rules. Please make sure you follow the guidelines as this will help to keep the school community safe. If you are planning to travel back to the UK in the last week of the school holiday, please let the school know where you have travelled from and which dates you arrived back into the country. We will be happy to advise where we can.

### **COVID Symptoms**

Please do remember that guidelines from September remain the same for those people who are displaying Covid symptoms. If you or your child are displaying any Covid related symptoms, please ensure you remain at home in isolation and take a PCR test and please let the school know.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Pupils will no longer be organised within bubbles and will have access to all specialist areas for Science, Art, Library, Soft Play, Sensory, PE and Performing Arts. We will resume assemblies but these will be adapted to reduce the number of pupils at any one time.

### **Uniform**

During the pandemic, we have made some allowances in relation to school uniforms. From September however, the following expectations will apply:

- Pupils will bring their PE kit with them to change into on PE days instead of wearing their PE kit to school
- Pupils will wear the correct PE kit - Blue Polo, Navy Joggers or Shorts & Navy Sweatshirt
- Full school uniform will be expected for all pupils between Year 1 and Year 11

Full school uniform includes:

- Black trousers, skirts or joggers for **Primary** pupils with the school white polo T-Shirt and the blue sweatshirt with the school logo
- Black trousers or skirts for **Secondary** pupils with a white shirt and school tie and the blue jumper with the school logo - Blazers are optional for those that want to wear it.
- Black shoes for all pupils

We think the uniform gives a sense of identity and it was selected by the pupils themselves. Please ensure you support your child and the school with the correct uniform. If your child has any sensory difficulties or sensitivities with any of the school uniform items, please let us know and we can adjust where necessary.

We will be introducing a new policy of contacting parents and carers in cases where adjustments for uniform have been made and your child continues to come to school in the incorrect uniform. This is a really important part of the home-school partnership and we would really appreciate your support to reinforce this expectation.

### **Clubs**

After school clubs will restart on Monday 20th September. We will be sending letters out to all parents and carers in the first week back at school.

Clubs will be offered within departments and there will be a range of activities on offer that include sessions offered by external providers.

### **Parent Information Meetings**

There will be Parent Information meetings for all year groups on Zoom in early September. We will use these to share important information about priorities for the school year and you can have a chance to ask any questions. Ms Santi and Mrs Huseyin will host the meetings. We have scheduled two Zoom sessions at different times on different days to ensure we give access to as many parents and carers as possible. If you have difficulties accessing Zoom or you do not have access to technology, please let us know in advance and we can make alternative arrangements.

The **ZOOM meetings** will be held on:

Tuesday 14th September 11.30-12.30 - **Zoom Link**

<https://zoom.us/j/96033485496?pwd=SHR6NGcvN2dWWMjFoL2swWG5wUjBqUT09>

Thursday 16th September 1.15pm-2.15pm - **Zoom Link**

<https://zoom.us/j/98614086417?pwd=aGdRYzhPbjlDTUQwZE1IT3JLMVVhdz09>

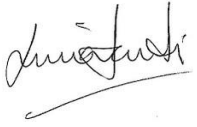
### **Communication**

We will continue to communicate with you as plans for September develop. Any further changes or guidance will be sent to you via the **text** system, through the **Grove News** which is sent via your **email inbox** and updates on the **school website**.

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility over the last year and I hope we can look forward to a somewhat less interrupted school year in September.

We wish you a very restful summer break and look forward to working with you next academic year.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucia Santi', with a long, sweeping underline.

Lucia Santi  
Headteacher