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The Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale Federation
Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Lesley Jones

22nd May 2020

Dear Year 6 parents,

We are writing to you to let you know about the next steps for continuing to open our school.

Firstly, we wish to thank you for supporting us during this difficult time and returning our Survey Monkey questionnaire. We are aware that there are many different views in the community. Some parents are very eager to send their children back to school others really don't want to. We recognise both viewpoints are perfectly valid. At this point, we wish to remind you that no parent will be forced to send their child back to school. We miss our children and I know every staff member wishes that we were working in normal times and could help support our children with their learning in the usual way.

We have been tasked by the government to prepare to extend the opening of schools from Monday 1st June. We will make our final assessment on if it is advisable to open school based upon the scientific advice due to be published on 28th May. In the meantime, we have been planning and completing detailed risk assessments taking onboard the latest guidance and collaborating with other schools on best practice. Should the scientific advice indicate that with appropriate measures, we can open, the first day of school for the next cohort of children will be **Wednesday June 3rd**. This will be for **Year 6** pupils, as well as the key worker children that have been coming to school every day.

As a parent/ carer of a child in **Year 6**, we would like to invite you to a **'zoom' meeting at 10am on Monday 1st June**. After the meeting, if the scientific advice has indicated we could open, we will make final adjustments to our risk assessment. The staff will then practise safety measures and make final adaptations to the curriculum offer. The zoom meeting on **Monday at 10am** will be with all **Year 6 parents** who are planning or just thinking about whether to send their child to school on Wednesday. It will be hosted by Mr Gordon and the Year 6 teaching staff. Each of you will be personally phoned after this meeting so you can let us know about your decision.

We have been working very hard to create a risk assessment that means your children can come into school safely. What we intend to do to keep your child and our staff safe, includes the following:

- Children will be in groups of 10, known as a pod. They will stay together in these pods and have breaks and lunches away from the other children in other pods.
- Classes and pods will start and finish at different times of the day to ensure that the school gates do not become crowded. We will share the plans for this, once we have accurate information on how many children will attend school.
- Children will have playtime in their pods. They will be kept apart from other pods at playtimes and play in different playground zones.
- Each pod will be taught by the same teacher for two weeks, after that time, they may be assigned a different teacher.



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- Children will sit on their own, at desks 2m apart from their classmates, they will keep all their stationery, coats and books on their own table, the equipment will not be shared with others. They will have their own individual desk pod.
 - Teachers will not walk around the classroom to help with pupils' queries or books, they will work mainly from their desk.
 - On days that PE will be taught, children should wear PE kit to school as they will not be able to change in school - they will be told of which days by their teacher. We recommend you change clothes daily, and have Friday mufti days.
 - We ask that children bring in their own labelled water bottles so as they don't share a water fountain.
 - Children should not bring their phones to school unless absolutely necessary. Usual procedures will apply if they do.
 - At the start of the children's day, they will need to be left at the gate and walk directly to class. Staff will be on duty to meet and greet. Parents will not be allowed onto the school site and we ask you maintain social distancing.
 - At home time, parents will be asked line up outside the main gate two metres apart, this will be marked to assist you. Preferably, only one parent/carer should collect from the school. Class teachers or teaching assistants will bring the children out to meet their parent after letting the children who walk home alone leave.
 - We will enforce handwashing regularly in class and between transitions.
 - Only one child will be allowed to go to the toilet at a time.
 - Toilets, especially seats, will be cleaned more often than usual. This will be closely monitored and recorded.
 - There will be regular cleaning of all areas of the school building throughout the day, including desks when the children go out to play.
 - The school will **close every Friday afternoon**, after lunch, to allow for a deep clean ready for the next week.

 - If one child or family become infected with Covid19, we will shut the pod they have been attending, and if the pod has had contact with other pods then they too will be shut.
 - Any pupil who shows symptoms of Covid19 will be immediately removed from class and moved to an isolation room and sent home.
 - We will be asking for your help, in providing up to date, accurate contact information as any child who is or appears ill will need to go home immediately.
- We have thought very carefully about how to keep your child safe, but it is our duty to let you know that no risk assessment is 100% secure, especially as we plan to open the school to more year groups as time goes by. We have opened to Year 6 first, as we feel that the younger children would struggle the most to abide by the school social distancing rules. However, we know that no child is going to be to abide by those rules, all the time. They will want to hug and touch their friends, especially after not seeing them for so long. That is perfectly natural and normal therefore it will be impossible to monitor 100% of the time, no matter how often we remind them not to. This is a risk we are prepared to take.

School will be a very different place when we open to more children. Deciding what to teach will require day to day assessments of how well the children stick to the rules and the practicalities of running the school day. Our teachers continue to adapt their practice, to deliver the best education they



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can, under these unusual circumstances. Please be assured, the best interests of the children will always come first.

We intend to open to more and more pupils as the term progresses. However, we know that some families have members who have underlying health conditions and will not send their children until Covid19 is under more control. We understand this and will do all we can to support those families. Also, we know that some parents will simply not want to send their child back until September, again we understand this. We know that this has been a difficult time for so many of our families and are keen to provide a solution that reflects our community's needs. Therefore, we are trying to make it possible for most of our children to come back school should they wish to.

If you have any questions about our plans before the meeting on Monday 1st June, please feel free to contact the school office and talk to the Head of School. We look forward to meeting with you at 10am on Monday 1st June when we will be able to address concerns and answer the questions you may have.

Yours Sincerely,

The GG Team

Zoom invite: 673 944 4084
Password: Gordon