

## RETURN TO SCHOOL!

### DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

As I write to you today, the Spring sun is shining and the weather has warmed up considerably since Half-Term. Mornings and evenings are getting lighter so it seems right to feel a little optimistic, despite everything that is happening.

### THANK YOU

Firstly, I wanted to say thank you to all parents with everything to do with home learning over the last couple of months. We know it hasn't been easy with issues around accessing, technological difficulties, balancing work, home schooling and home life. But, parents have been positive and have supported their children through this time. Thank you for all your support.

This, of course, would not have been possible without South Grove staff working really hard throughout the term. Teachers and support staff have ensured that they have delivered a balanced, accessible home learning offer, juggling teaching children in school as well as remote online learning to the majority of their classes. The administration team and site staff have kept the school organised and running smoothly day to day. Can I also thank the school's SLT who have supported me in this current lockdown. It has been a fantastic joint team effort by all staff and I know that you would want to join me in thanking everyone.

### THIS WEEK MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH - 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

All staff will be in this week to prepare for the return of all the children. Remote learning using Google Classrooms will be set up as normal.

The staff teams will be busy planning the curriculum and preparing the classroom environment to welcome the children back to. The classrooms will look just like they did when the children left in December so it will all be very familiar!

### MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

We will be delighted to welcome back all children, in all Year Groups, including our new families, to full time school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Everything will be the same as last term, with the children returning to school at their designated Year Group times and gate entry.

Year Group	Drop off	Lunch	Pick up	Gate to be dropped off and picked up	Where to line up
Nursery	9:00am/12:30pm	12:00pm-12:30pm	12:00pm/3:30pm	Camden Road	Adults to collect from the Nursery Gate
Reception	8:45am	11:30am-12:30pm	3:15pm	Camden Road	Adults to collect from the Nursery Gate
Year 1	8:45am	11:30pm-12:30pm	3:15pm	Ashford Close	KS2 Playground
Year 2	8:30am	11:30am-12:30am	3:00pm	Ashford Close	KS2 Playground
Year 3	9:00am	12:30-1:30pm	3:30pm	Ringwood Road	KS2 Playground
Year 4	9:00am	12:30-1:30pm	3:30pm	Ashford Close	KS2 Playground
Year 5	8:45am	12:00pm-1:00pm	3:15pm	Ringwood Road	KS2 Playground
Year 6	8:30am	12:00pm-1:00pm	3:00pm	Ringwood Road	KS2 Playground Year 6 Mobile
Year PLM	8:45am	11:45-12:45pm	3:15pm	Ringwood Road	Main School Office

## THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS OF CONTROLS - THE SCHOOL WILL CONTINUE TO:

- Resume full-time education for all children
- Ensure those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Organise the children into Year Team bubbles and reduce mixing with others
- Stagger break and lunchtimes, as well as arrivals and departures
- Increase the frequency of cleaning, reducing the use of shared items and utilising outdoor space
- Encourage good personal hygiene by ensuring frequent hand washing and good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'bin it, kill it' approach
- Offer an adapted extended hours provision before and after school
- Engage with NHS Test and Trace process.

## GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL AGAIN REMINDERS:

On their return to school, children should:

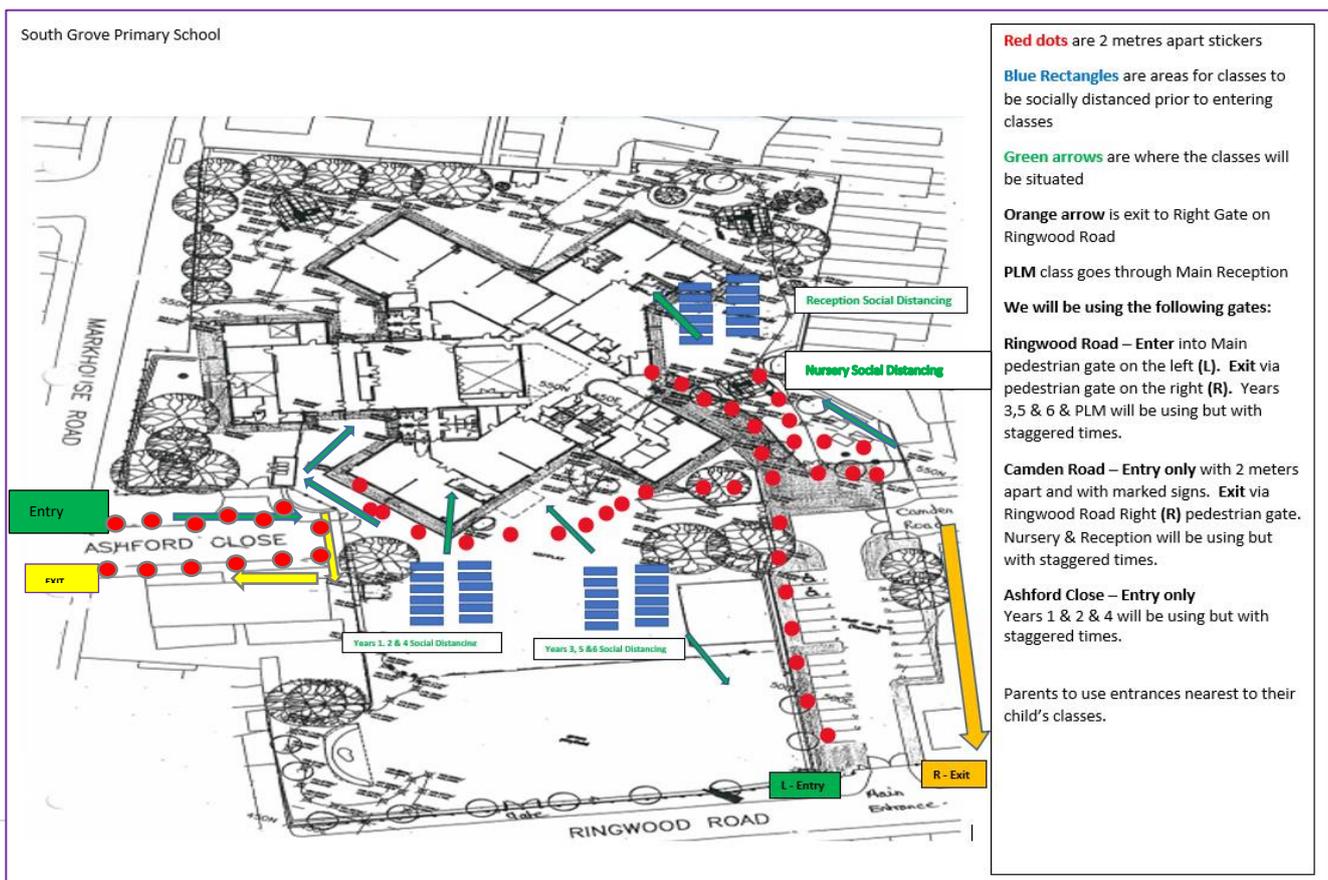
- Bring a **reusable** water bottle, clearly labelled with their name. The bottle will stay in school
- Only bring their packed lunch if they are not having lunch provided by the school –please send these with your child at the start of the day rather than bringing them in later
- On PE days wear their PE kits to school
- Not bring learning equipment
- **Only** bring a reading book from home when requested by the teacher

As per public health guidance children are not required to wear face masks in school. However, staff will be using face coverings as appropriate throughout the day, essentially in meeting and greeting families and working closely with the children where a 2 metre distance is difficult to achieve.

## PROCEDURES REMINDERS:

Below is step-by-step guidance on what you and your family should do during the arrival and leaving of the school. **In order to maintain safe procedures, we will need your full co-operation.** We require parents and carers to:

- Physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting children (adults wearing of masks is requested)
- Limit drop-off and collection to one parent or carer per household and leave other children, not attending school, at home, if childcare allows
- Leave scooters and bikes in the designated areas



## ARRIVAL

**As there will be many families gathering together again at school to drop their children off, I would ask adults to wear a face mask when bringing their children to school and social distancing between parents.**

Drop-offs and pick-ups are staggered to ensure that social distancing protocols can be followed. **Please be on time as early or late arrival impacts on our social distancing systems for parents and children waiting.**

Please check the table and map above for your child's arrival and departure gate. There will be staff available to guide you and support with social distancing. For parents entering Ringwood Road entrance, there is a one-way system, which will facilitate safe practices and avoid congestion. **Please ensure that you follow the pathway and do not cut through the car park.**

**For all other entrance and exit gates can parents and carers observe the need to socially distance from each other when waiting for their child/children.**

We understand that you will want to say goodbye to your child but we ask that you do this as swiftly as possible, and leave, to support safety for all and allow for social distancing between parents.

## DEPARTURE

At the end of the school day the children will leave at staggered times. If you are collecting your child you need to be on time, following the same gate as per the morning drop-off.

- Children will wait with their teacher in the playground in their designated spots so that they can see the gate and their parents
- **All parents should queue on the pavement by the gate and the children will be sent out – please be patient and socially distance so it is one parent at a time requesting their child, as staff are just familiarising themselves with new parents and children**
- **For parents queuing in Ashford Close queues will be for the different classes, so please be aware of which line to queue in**
- EYFS Reception and Nursery parents will follow the one-way system indicated in the EYFS Playground from Camden Road when they start school
- We will require adults to line up, maintaining social distancing while on the school site and be patient

## THE SCHOOL DAY

**The children will remain in their Year Team Bubble throughout the day, with their teacher and support staff:**

- They will learn in their own classroom. Some resources including carpets, and non-essential furniture have been removed to create space and maintain effective hygiene.
- Each child will have an individual stationery pack and tray, which will be cleaned regularly. We are keen to support the children's fitness and well-being. Each bubble will have their own PE equipment and resources. These will be cleaned after every use.
- Lessons will be designed to include as much outdoor learning as possible in our playgrounds, which will be zoned and timetabled to ensure bubbles remain separate.
- Local trips and visits will not be undertaken during this term
- Breaks and lunch times will be staggered, with children remaining in their class bubbles throughout the school day. The playgrounds have been timetabled and zoned.
- We will continue to develop online learning. Google Classrooms will be used for blended learning opportunities both at home and in school. Technology will also support connecting the school and community through collective online assemblies. The online learning platform will be maintained in case of a local lockdown.
- Parent meetings and workshops will take place via a suitable platform. More information and guidance will follow later on this term.

## CURRICULUM

We know that you will be concerned about your child/children missing their normal education at school this year and this has been prominent in the media about children's lost learning.

When the children return, we will be providing the broad, enriched curriculum that we have always planned and delivered, with children engaging in a wide range of activities such as PE, art and design, music and drama as well as the core subjects. Interventions will be put into place where necessary, as we would normally do, and focus on the basic skills naturally through their curriculum.

There will be a focus on the children's well-being in all that we do. Providing opportunities for the children to have fun, being with their friends in learning and at play will support this enormously.

## ASSEMBLIES AND OTHER EVENTS

Although there is a gradual reduction in lockdown measures nationally, we are still very mindful of the need to socially distance at school.

We will continue with key events such as World Book Day and Comic Relief Day but these will be done in a slightly different way but involve the children to share their experiences across the school. Class and Year Group assemblies will resume but remotely during the Summer Term.

Star of the Week will resume again remotely each week live with the children in school!

## LUNCHES

A full lunch service will resume, including halal and vegetarian options. Children will eat in their bubbles and there will be a staggered service. If your child is having a packed lunch they will store their lunchbox in their classroom as normal. **Social distancing will be in place during lunchtimes.**

A rota has been arranged and until **May Half-Term:**

- Year 3 and Year 4 will have hot lunches
- Year 5 and Year 6 need to bring a packed lunches (If your child is entitled to FSM the school can provide this for you if you wish)

## EXTENDED PROVISION

YMCA are continuing to provide after school care currently for Years Reception to Year 6. Please contact: [MichelleIrish@ymcaspg.org](mailto:MichelleIrish@ymcaspg.org). As in September, the pick-up point will be in Ashford Close.

## BREAKFAST CLUB

Under the current guidance, we are offering Breakfast Club within their Year Team Bubbles. Children must be dropped at the Ashford Close Road Gate from 7:30am onwards. Enquiries about Breakfast Club can be made by telephoning the Main School Office or emailing at [parents@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:parents@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk)

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - SUMMER TERM 2021

These will begin during the Summer Term 2021 and will be run for each Year Group. Letters will be going out to each Year Group at the start of the Summer Term. This will be on a first-come, first served basis.

## SICKNESS AND COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

In order for us to implement safe return to school, we will need parents to follow, **without exception**, the guidance on **sickness protocols**. This is vital for the safety and protection of all children and staff. **Testing** is available for all children, their households and all staff. **Families have been incredibly diligent and responsive in following the guidance below.** This was integral to the safe running of the school in the Summer Term and it must continue this academic year.

## ILLNESS AT HOME

**Please do not send your child to school if they are at all unwell and notify the school for the reason of absence.** This includes a cough, cold, temperature, sore throat or just feeling under the weather. Please follow the government guidelines if your child or any other family member is showing any symptoms of COVID-19 and self-isolate. Full details here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/963541/Schools\\_coronavirus\\_operational\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf)

**Any member of your household with symptoms must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the commencement of symptoms. Other members of the household (including any siblings) must self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. It is important that the school is notified of any COVID-19 test results.**

## **ILLNESS AT SCHOOL**

If a child, or a member of staff, becomes unwell at school with symptoms of COVID-19, they will be immediately **isolated** in the **designated area**. You will be contacted to take them home as soon as possible and take medical advice. Information regarding **testing** and self-isolation will be immediately provided and can be found here: [nhs.uk/self-isolation](https://nhs.uk/self-isolation) or via 111 online service: [111.nhs.uk/covid-19](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19); or by calling 119. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Anyone in England who tests positive for coronavirus will now be contacted via text, email or over the phone and asked to log on to the **NHS Test and Trace** website, where they'll be asked for details of people with whom they've been in close contact.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team will contact you if notification of a test result is not received by the school. **On receipt of a negative test result, and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to COVID-19, a pupil or staff member may return to school .**

The supervising staff member and other children in the bubble will continue to wash their hands thoroughly, and **do not** need to go home unless they develop symptoms or **the sick child subsequently tests positive**. The school will notify all relevant families if a child in the bubble tests positive.

**If a child or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, the school will take advice from the local health protection team.**

## **QUARANTINE**

If you have recently travelled abroad, please ensure you have followed government guidance on self-isolation and quarantine and inform the school if your child will be absent due to quarantine regulations. <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control/self-isolating-when-you-arrive>

## **LATERAL FLOW TESTS**

For everyone's peace of mind all staff members have been requested to complete a LFT twice a week and this will continue during the term.

## **GOVERNMENT EXPECTATIONS REGARDING ATTENDANCE**

Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing and schools have been requested to remind families that all children of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, if they are unwell or their household is self-isolating due to symptoms of COVID-19).

**All children are expected to return to school, including those who have family members who are shielding.**

## **FINALLY.....**

Whilst it is hugely positive that we are returning to school, the pandemic still continues. Whilst we hope that this is the last national lockdown, we may still see Year Team Bubbles close down over the next term, so we must all be cautious and follow the national guidelines. The well-being and safety of the children, staff and community as always remains our absolute priority. We will continue to carefully follow government guidance, therefore please bear in mind that these arrangements are subject to change.

Please contact the school on 0208 521 6000 or email [parents@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:parents@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk) if you have any queries regarding the information above.

We really look forward to welcoming children back to school next week. We will work closely with every family to ensure they again feel confident and ready to return to school. Thank you for your ongoing co-operation.

All my best wishes,



Julie Maltwood  
Head Teacher

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **THE SCHOOL WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE SYSTEM OF CONTROLS: AS SET OUT BY THE DFE REF DFE 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 -**

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection.'

By following the system of controls, the school will effectively reduce risks in our setting and create an inherently safer environment.

These additional measures will be reviewed in partnership with health experts to decide whether evidence suggests that these measures can be eased ahead of the summer term.

#### **Prevention**

##### **You must always:**

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated. In specific circumstances:
- 8) Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
- 9) Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available.

#### **Response to any infection**

##### **You must always:**

- 10) Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- 11) Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- 12) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.