



Gaddesby Primary School



Ashby Road, Gaddesby, Leicester, LE7 4WF,

Telephone: 01664 840253 E-mail: office@gaddesby.bepschools.org

Website: www.gaddesby.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Leigh Fox

School Re-opening Information – March 8th 2021

Thursday 25th February 2021

Dear Parents,

I'd like to open this letter by saying how pleased I am that the government announced a return to school for all children from the 8th March. During our enforced closure and move to online learning, you and your children have been amazing. The quality of work achieved by children, the progress made and the continued high attendance during our remote learning has been outstanding – I'd like to thank you for your support with this. We now move our focus to returning our children to school – something which I am sure you are all very keen to do despite the fact that there will still be some concerns around covid.

We are planning a full return to school on Monday 8th March and expect all of our pupils to attend. In this letter I will set out what a return to school looks like. This letter will also make clear the steps we are taking as a school and Multi Academy Trust (MAT) to ensure our environments are as safe as we can make them at this time. I have been working alongside a number of head teachers from across our MAT, our CEO, our Director of Schools and other central MAT colleagues, as well as our own staff to make what we believe are the best possible decisions for our children, families and staff.

Health and Safety

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance and supported by Bradgate Education Partnership, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our school.

- We would ask that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, does not attend the setting. This is inclusive of all children, parents and staff.
- We will be asking children to clean their hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds that all parts of the hands are covered. Using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser.
- We will be ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins.
- We will also be implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.

The School Day

- Each class will be a 'bubble' - a group of children that will learn and play together. Staff members will work within a bubble and will limit contact with other bubbles as much as possible – due to the operational requirements of the school, some staff will have to work across bubbles. In this instance these staff will ensure that they maintain social distancing where possible.
- Children will each have their own space at a desk. They will have their own stationery pack and will manage their own workbooks.





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- Children will be able to receive a hot school meal from March 8th starting with our week 1 menu. This will follow our usual school menus found on the school website. If children choose to, they may bring a packed lunch into school. Children will be eating either in their classrooms or in the school hall to ensure that they do not mix with other bubbles.
- Our break and lunch times will be staggered so that children are able to remain in their bubbles and not come into contact with children from other bubbles.
- We are asking children **not** to bring their own stationery, books or any toys or other items from home to the school.

Pick Up and Drop Off (A member of the school's leadership team will be present to support this)

- We will be continuing with a phased pick up and drop off schedule. We would like to ask parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household (masks must still be worn when on the school site). See Appendix A – School drop off and pick up, for further details below. It is absolutely imperative that all parents adhere to the pickup and drop off times and locations set out below. If you are required to pick two or more children up at the same time in different locations, we will supervise children until you arrive.
 - Kiss and drop will run for its usual time of 8:40 to 8:50 enabling access to this for pupils of all ages.
 - Parents will be asked to drop children off at their own classroom door (school office reception for year 6 pupils).
- Please do not enter the building.** Parents will then be asked to walk around the school and exit via the school playground. Parents will be asked to pick up from specific locations – see information below.
- On entry to school children will sanitize hands and store belongings away safely.

School Routines

- Children will be in the usual classroom for their year group and will use the usual toilets for their class.
- Children will be expected to be in full school uniform. Children should bring plimsolls and wellington boots in to school (these will remain in school). Children should wear black school shoes to school.
- Assemblies will not be held as large gatherings but will take place in individual classrooms either led by the class teacher or by Mr Fox or Miss Toon via video link.
- Please try to avoid sending your children to school with any additional belongings.
- Children will need a water bottle with a sealed cap to keep on their table at all times.

Break and Lunch Times

- Break and lunch times will be staggered. Each year group will get a 15 minute break in the morning followed by a 1 hour lunch break. In the new timetable our younger children will be in class for a longer period in the afternoon – our key stage 1 and EYFS teachers have the flexibility to take the children for a short break during this time if required.
- We will be fully staffed at all times to provide appropriate supervision and first aid cover. Our kitchen will be running as usual during this time – with their own risk assessments in place.
- Please send children with a healthy snack as you usually would.

PE

- Children will be participating in PE lessons. As is usual, we would ask that children bring in their PE kit in a small bag to keep on their peg/in their locker for a whole half term. Children will be supported in organizing their things to avoid picking up the wrong socks etc.
- There will be no swimming for year 3 initially – this will be reviewed.





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Music Lessons and Specialist Teachers (external)

• These staff will still be working in school. They will follow the schools risk assessments when working with pupils and will practice social distancing to ensure that they can work with children from across the school. Music teachers may teach from behind a perspex screen.

Attendance

• In line with government guidance, full attendance is expected from the first day of our return and we hope that we have assured you that your child/ren will be as safe as possible. If you have any concerns or queries around attendance, please call the school office or email me directly. I understand this is an anxious time for many and I will be happy to help you further if needs be.

Testing

• We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test (and in the case of a negative test also). We will only close a bubble in the case of a positive test.

In a previous letter I said that we would hold parents evenings in March. I have now decided that it would be better for children to settle back in to school and school life before our teachers meet with you in the summer term and are able to give you a high quality parents evening. In the meantime please do contact your child's class teacher if there is anything they need to know following our remote learning. Teachers e-mail addresses will be listed at the bottom of this letter.

Following this letter, later in the week, you will also receive a letter from our Multi Academy Trust – Bradgate Education Partnership – describing their position on the reopening of schools. I hope this is helpful. If you have any worries, concerns or questions around returning to school then please don't hesitate to contact me on 01664 840253 or lfox@gaddesby.bepschools.org

Yours Sincerely

Mr Leigh Fox
Headteacher

EYFS kstansfield@gaddesby.bepschools.org

lmeredith@gaddesby.bepschools.org

Year 1 agarratt@gaddesby.bepschools.org

Year 2 chill@gaddesby.bepschools.org

Year 3 fdewick@gaddesby.bepschools.org

lsimms@gaddesby.bepschools.org

Year 4 rsmith@gaddesby.bepschools.org

Year 5 atoon@gaddesby.bepschools.org

lsimms@gaddesby.bepschools.org

Year 6 jlinnett@gaddesby.bepschools.org





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Appendix A – School Drop Off and Pick Up

At drop off each group will be given a strict 20 minute time slot (please do not arrive before or after your slot). We would like children to arrive at the beginning of their time slot to allow them plenty of time to get into classrooms, wash hands and put belongings away. All parents must deliver their children to their own classroom door – except year 6 who will enter via the main office. Kiss and drop is also available at the usual kiss and drop point at the usual time of 8:40-8:50 for all pupils.

Your child's teacher will be in the classroom ready to greet them. After drop off we ask that you continue to walk around the school and leave via the playground gate. We ask you to please maintain social distancing at all times where possible.

If you miss your 20 minute slot we ask you to support your child to enter the school through the front door. We are hopeful that this will not happen.

At pick up time we ask parents to arrive strictly for their pick up time. Please try to keep the car park as clear as possible to allow for quick pick-ups. You will be collecting your children from one of four places. Please see table below. We would like all Key stage 1/EYFS parents to have left prior to our KS2 collection at 3:15. As stated earlier, if you have to be in 2 places at one time, we would ask you to pick up your younger child first followed by your older child/children.

	Start Time	Notes:	Finish Time	Notes:
Reception/EYFS	8:50	8:30-8:50 drop off time at classroom door.	3:00	Collection in Village Hall car park
Yr 1	8:50	8:30-8:50 drop off time at classroom door.	3:00	Collection in front of main office reception
Yr 2	8:50	8:30-8:50 drop off time at classroom door.	3:00	Collection on School playground
Yr 3	9:05	8:45-9:05 drop off at classroom door.	3:15	Collection on school playground – Separate from other yr group
Yr 4	9:05	8:45-9:05 drop off at classroom door.	3:15	Collection on school playground – Separate from other yr group
Yr 5	9:05	8:45-9:05 drop off at classroom door.	3:15	Collection in Village Hall car park
Yr 6	9:05	8:45-9:05 drop off at main office reception.	3:15	Collection in front of main office reception

