



**Grove Academy**  
**ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust**  
Turner Street, Northwood, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 2NL  
Telephone: 01782 234550      Email: [grove@espritmat.org](mailto:grove@espritmat.org)  
**Executive Principal & Designated Child Protection Officer: Mrs S Moran**  
**Academy Principal & Deputy Designated Child Protection Officer: Mrs S Carrigan**



*“Every child deserves to be the best they can be”*

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1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Returning to School on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

Thank you for your patience and co-operation with our academy during this very difficult time. I am so proud of the way parents/carers and children have embraced our remote learning and I appreciate how tricky this has been. I have loved seeing the work produced by our children and hearing how they have joined in with the daily Zoom sessions! I’m sure that you’ll agree that our children are superstars!

As you will be aware, the Government have now announced that all schools and academies are to reopen to ALL pupils from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. This is great news and we very much look forward to welcoming all of our children back into the classrooms. The Government have made it very clear that school attendance is mandatory and we will continue to follow our Attendance Policy.

I wanted to begin by reassuring you all to try not to worry about your children coming back to school, if they are not already in. There has been much media hype about ‘lost learning’ and children needing to ‘catch up’. This is our job as teachers, to work our magic to help children to make accelerated progress. Nobody really knows what the impact of this pandemic will be on children in the future. The vast majority of children will have built their characters in ways we would never have imagined, developing resilience, creativity and self-sufficiency. Many have learned new skills including baking, cleaning, car washing; and many have enjoyed more family time together, with more time for walks, etc. All of this is just as important as the more academic learning that would have been going on in school, arguably more important as these are really valuable skills for life. So please try not to worry about your child’s progress, our focus will be on welcoming children back to school and helping them to enjoy school again, focussing on their wellbeing first and foremost, because until they feel happy and relaxed they won’t be able to learn.

We have continued to review our risk assessments, following the updated Government guidance, to ensure that we all remain as safe as possible and the details can be found in our Risk Assessment and Parent Handbook on the website <https://www.grovejunior.co.uk/covid19-resources/new-covid-page>

### **Dropping off and collecting children:**

Parents/carers and children are already familiar with the dropping off and collection arrangements which were in place before Christmas and these will continue from 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. Please use the gates that you were using BEFORE Christmas, these are shown below (2 classes in Y6 have different gates and will receive text messages):

**PLEASE UPDATE THE ACADEMY OFFICE IF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGE**





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Year group	Arrival time	Collection Time Mon-Thurs	Collection Time Friday (if not already allocated a place till 2.30pm)	Gates
Y3	8:35	2:40	12:45	3JK (Miss Keen) – Keelings Road 3JB-C (Mrs. Beresford-Copestake) – Keelings Road 3SK (Miss Killick) – Turner Street 3SK (Miss Fryer) – Myatt Street
Y4	8:30	2:35	12:40	4CC (Miss Clutton) – Keelings Road 4PR (Miss Rogers) – Keelings Road 4SJ (Miss Johnson) – Turner Street 4JW (Miss Wynne) – Myatt Street
Y5	8:25	2:30	12:35	5HF (Mrs. Fairbairn) – Keelings Road 5CM (Miss Mobley) – Myatt Street 5KE (Mrs. Exintari) – Turner Street 5HC (Miss Craddock) – Keelings Road
Y6	8.20	2:25	12:30	6CP (Miss Peacock) – Keelings Road <b>6LP (Miss Pate) – Myatt Street</b> 6JB-P (Mr. Bateman-Price) – Turner Street <b>6CB (Miss Bentley) – Keelings Road</b>

We would remind all parents/carers to follow the details of our Risk Assessment to ensure everyone’s safety including yours, the children and our staff. Unfortunately, if staff or children contract the virus then it will mean we have no choice but to close bubbles. So please can I ask for your support in the following safety measures:

- It is vital that **ALL** children arrive to school and are collected promptly (no crossing of year group bubbles is permitted)
- Only 1 adult per family to drop off / collect pupils
- Anyone collecting or dropping off a child **MUST** wear a face covering
- We **STRONGLY ADVISE** face coverings to be worn on pavements around school due to the difficulty in maintaining social distance
- Parents / carers **MUST NOT** congregate with other adults at the school gates – this is now prohibited by law
- Anyone collecting or dropping off children **MUST** socially distance from everyone else by 2 meters
- DO NOT attempt to speak to any member of staff to pass messages on or ask questions – please call (01782 234550), email the school office ([grove@espritmat.org](mailto:grove@espritmat.org)) or contact the teacher via Class Dojo between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm

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Can I also remind you that children in Years 3 and 4 are not permitted to arrive at or leave school on their own or with a Grove sibling, they must be brought onto the playground by an adult. If children in Years 5 and 6 are brought to school by an adult, then the adult must escort them onto the playground, not leave them in the line, or at the gate (this is to prevent crossing too closely to other adults in the line).

*Please note that whilst numbers in school have been lower during the lockdown, we have been able to be more flexible about one-way systems, and pupils being brought right onto the playground by adults. However, now that we are returning to full capacity, we must ask that everyone follows all of our systems, as we will not be able to supervise children walking along pavements in the same way. We ask that the one-way systems are followed even when the bulk of parents have entered, as we need everyone to follow our systems. Many thanks in anticipation of your support in adhering to our safety measures.*

*Please be extra careful when travelling to and from our school as we are aware that there are road and payment closures in the surrounding areas. You may need to allow extra time for your journey if travelling by car.*

#### Uniform and ventilation of classrooms

**We continue to expect all children to wear full school uniform** but we will continue to follow the Government advice with regard to the ventilation of our sites. Classroom windows will be kept ajar every day to increase the flow of air. Whilst we have the heating on to warm the school the effect is compromised by needing to have windows open all day and, until the warmer weather is with us, it may be more practical if children were able to wear more clothes to school. In the first instance, we would like to ensure that children always wear their school jumper or blazer every day. The following options are now also permitted:

- Base layer of thermals, vest or T-shirt
- Wearing a gilet over their uniform
- Wearing a Grove / navy jumper under their blazer
- In extreme circumstances, coats or fleeces can be worn in classrooms

*As always, please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name.*

Thank you again for your continued support, we will update you with any changes as they arise.

Regards,

Mrs S Carrigan  
Academy Principal

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