



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a peaceful summer and you and your children are looking forward to the new term. We are looking forward to welcoming many new children into the school and also our new staff who have joined the team.

Over the summer there have been various works carried out and some exciting changes throughout the school, with more in the pipeline which have had a slight delay due to material shortages.

The classrooms in the House have all been repainted and upgraded, the library has now been moved to the top of the house (where the ICT Room used to be) this has created a much larger space for the children to enjoy their individual and class reading sessions. The existing library has been changed into a multiuse workspace; for staff to use during their non-contact time and for small focus groups and one to one intervention to take place. We are in the process of extending one of the classrooms in the lower building (currently shared with nursery and reception) this has been delayed but once complete will create a larger room with a glass surround to bring much more light and space in the room, while still having direct access into the EYFS outdoor area.

The staff have worked very hard to reorganise the school and have everything ready in preparation for your return.

Over the last two years there have been many changes to the school day to provide a safe space for children to learn during Covid-19. As per government guidelines we no longer have to continue with these measures. The children will not be in 'bubbles' in school and we will no longer have to take temperatures or sanitise upon entry. The children will have access to the whole playground and children of all ages will be able to interact. Should any of the measures change, based on either our own experience or from government guidance, we will keep you informed.

We have however learned from our experience and found that staggered entry/exit points and times have worked very well. This has eased traffic at both sides of the school helping parents and easing congestion for neighbours. Also children coming straight into class has helped the children settle more quickly and learning to start earlier with an additional morning activity in place.

### **Arrival**

7:45 – 8:30: Breakfast Club: Children may arrive during this time via the front gate.

*Pupils permitted into building from 8:30 – they will travel directly to their classrooms prior to lessons beginning.*

8:30 – 8:45 – Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils arrive – Front of house (The Chine)

8:30 – 8:45 – Year 1, 2 and 3 pupils arrive – Back gate (Deepdene Court)

8:40 – 8:50 – Reception children arrive – Back gate (Deepdene Court)

8:40 – 8:50 – Nursery children arrive – Front gate (The Chine) – walk down the path to nursery door.

Parents of children in Year 1 – 6 will not be able to accompany children to their class, we have delayed the entry for nursery and reception parents to allow parents to accompany their child to the

classroom door. Teachers will be on duty during the week if you do need to see them, but contact via email/phone is always most effective.

**If you have children at more than one entry/exit point one drop off, you are welcome to use either point.**

### **Break Times**

As mentioned, the playground will no longer be divided into sections, to allow all children to utilise the entire space. We have rotas for each class to use the apparatus during the week and have also put a rota in place for various classes to use the grass area during breaktimes.

### **Home time**

Parents are asked to wait at their designated pick up points and maintain social distancing measures. Children will be dismissed from their entry points at the times outlined below.

Please arrive on time to collect your children as teachers do have clubs/meetings after school which they need to prepare for. If children are not collected at the end of the day, they will be taken to after school to wait and charges will be applied.

15:20 - Nursery – Collect from classroom door  
15:15 - Reception – Collect from Deepdene Court  
15:20 – Year 1 – Deepdene Court  
15:25 – Year 2 – Deepdene Court  
15:30 – Year 3 – Deepdene Court  
15:20 – Year 4 – Front of house  
15:25 – Year 5 – Front of house  
15:30 – Year 6 – Front of house

### **Late arrival/early pick up**

If you arrive to school with your children late or need to collect your child during the school day, please come to the front door of the house so you can sign your child in/out.

Breakfast and After school club will commence from Thursday:  
Breakfast club from 7:45am – 8:30am  
After school Club: 3:30pm – 6:00pm

All additional clubs will begin on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. If you have yet to sign up to these clubs please contact the office and they will assist you in doing so.

### **Food and Lunch Menu**

The new lunch menus will be published on the website, there will also be a copy of the following weeks lunch menu at the end of each newsletter. The school provide children with a morning snack and their food at lunch time. No food should be brought in from home.

If children are attending clubs after school they are welcome to bring in a small snack to eat before their club starts: this should consist of only the following: fruit, vegetables, crackers/rice cakes or a small piece of cheese. Sweets, chocolate and crisps are not allowed, and the child will be sent home with them if they are brought into school.

### **PE Kits**

Please ensure your child has their PE Kit, clearly named, with them from Thursday as PE and games will begin from the start of term.

### **Music Lessons**

Individual music lessons will begin on Thursday, so please ensure your child has the relevant instrument and music with them if they are having a lesson.

### **Staff**

The following staff are new to GPPS this academic year; Mrs Burrows (Year 2 Teacher), Miss Connolly (Year 3 Teacher), Mr Deans (Year 4 Teacher and Maths specialist). We have also recruited an additional teaching assistant to work in upper KS2; Mrs Harnett. Miss McHale will be returning to the Nursery this term.

### **Contacting Staff**

Each class has their own email address which is the name of the class eg: year 4 ([year4@gpps.org.uk](mailto:year4@gpps.org.uk)) please feel free to contact the teachers via these email address and they will endeavour to respond within 24 hours, please appreciate that during the school day teachers are with your children teaching and do not always have access to their emails, but they will get back to you at their earliest convenience; if your email is urgent please copy in the office into the email who will notify the staff during the school day.

### **Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Information:**

As we want to minimise crowds in the school, each teacher will be sending out an email, detailing timetables, general points, homework, curriculum overviews etc; before the end of the week. Next week teachers have set up Zoom sessions for you to meet with them if you have any further questions. If you wish to discuss anything individually, please do contact the teacher directly.

### **Cleaning**

The school has undergone a full disinfecting deep clean over the summer holidays. Alongside this, the increased hours which the school allocated to the cleaning team has been maintained into the Autumn Term.

### **Suspected and confirmed cases**

Staff will be monitoring children for symptoms throughout the day. Should this situation arise, please note the onus to arrange for a child to be tested is on you. We will act in a proportionate and considered way, but our priority will always be to the whole community. There is an increased likelihood of displaying symptoms as winter approaches, but in order to provide a safe environment to all, we will err on the side of caution rather than assume a symptom is attributed to an alternative affliction.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

### **Local Lockdown**

If a situation arises whereby we are subject to a local lockdown, we will follow government guidelines. In previous examples around the United Kingdom, local lockdown has applied to gatherings and mixing of homes, but we will follow the instructions received from the government, and will communicate this with parents as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming back the children, and assure parents that we will be doing everything within our ability to maintain their safety as our absolute priority. Please review the measures outlined above carefully and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

The staff and I are looking forward to a very productive year working with your children to fulfil their all-round potential.

Best wishes to all – I hope everyone is healthy and well.

**Flavia Rizzo**  
Head Teacher



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