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**Our Ref:** RJ

**Date:** 05/08/2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the recent communication from the Head of Education, I wish now to alert you to specific arrangements in regard to your child's return to school. The whole staff team here at Grange Academy share the sentiment of being delighted to welcome your young people back to school.

### **Date of Return of Pupils**

We are undertaking a soft-start as per the communication issued from dates 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> August. This will take the following format:-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Pupils to attend</b>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> August	S1, S3, S5, S6
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	S1, S4, S5, S6
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> August	S1, S2, S4

Given this planned partial attendance of pupils, we would ask that any families for whom this causes significant difficulty, to please telephone the school and we will try to support this, bearing in mind that emergency critical childcare ceases on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August for Early Childhood Centres and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August for school-aged children. **All pupils in East Ayrshire should therefore be attending full-time by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August**, other than young people with ongoing health issues, quarantining or self-isolating.

### **Wellbeing and Learning**

Your child's wellbeing will always be our prime concern and staff are ready to welcome your child back to school in a welcoming way that links to our ongoing work on relationships across all of our schools.

### **Transport and Arrival of Pupils**

School transport will run as normal and pupils should access their assigned transport in the usual way. Where pupils are dropped off at school by car, we respectfully ask that this is not directly at school gates to prevent entry areas becoming overcrowded. Clearly this will not be the case for young people with additional support needs who require to be dropped off in school proximity. Your child does not require a face covering for school transport, but is absolutely welcome to wear a covering should they prefer to do so. Sanitation of hands will be expected on bus entry (for public and school transport) and staff working as escorts in taxis will be wearing a face covering.

On arrival at school, all S4, S5 and S6 pupils should report directly to their Period 1 class each day. S1, S2 and S3 are asked to wait in small groups in the Street / Assembly Hall area or in the school playground.

At the end of the day young people in S1, S2 and S3 will be dismissed 10 minutes early at 15:25 to minimise crowding in corridors and the school playground. Buses will leave at the usual time.

In accordance with government guidelines, parents will not be able to enter the school, and arrangements will be made with you directly should an emergency occur and you are required to come to collect your child.

## **Catering**

### **Morning Interval**

Interval times will be adjusted to prevent a large gathering in the street area.

S1, S2 and S3 will have their morning break from 11:00 to 11:15.

S4, S5 and S6 will have their morning break from 11:15 to 11:30.

Please note that, at the very start of term, **no food** will be available from the school canteen **at morning interval**. This will be under constant review and provision will be expanded in time as we begin to settle back to routine. We ask that parents ensure that young people have access to breakfast and bring a snack, if needed, until further notice.

### **Lunch**

Lunchtime is at the usual time of 13:10 to 13:55. Arrangements for lunch will be communicated in detail at the start of term.

Pupils can continue to bring a packed lunch and we ask parents to work with us in actively encouraging young people to remain on the school site for lunch, as we are unable to supervise any provision made outside of school.

## **Uniform**

We very much appreciate the effort you make in ensuring your child is appropriately dressed for school. However we understand that, due to lockdown, some families may have had difficulties in sourcing school uniform for the start of term. If this is the case please don't hesitate to get in touch with us and we will do what we can to help.

## **COVID-19 Management**

- Please do not send your child to school or ECC if they, or any of your household, have symptoms of COVID-19, please alert us to this immediately should this occur.
- Please arrange to pick your child up from school immediately if you are contacted to advise that they are symptomatic, and follow subsequent medical advice. Schools have to ensure that any child/young person who is symptomatic is taken home as soon as possible.

## **Some Practicalities ...**

In summary, we fully appreciate that this will be a return to school involving a huge mixture of both anxiety, but also indeed joy as young people see their friends and staff again. As a final helpful list to parents, can you please support us by:

- Reinforcing hygiene measures and social distancing with your child(ren). Young people may wish to consider bringing their own hand sanitiser although this will be available in school.
- Having your child bring tissues to school to capture any coughs or sneezes.
- Ensuring your child does not bring unnecessary items to school.
- Working with your school in a positive way, even if things are difficult, we all want to help.
- Reinforcing positive relationships between children and our staff.
- Using our meal pre-order system and giving your child a break-time snack and breakfast.
- Not dropping children off directly at school gates (where possible), this will help us prioritise this space for young people with additional support needs who require this access.
- Understanding that we are not permitted to allow visitors to school buildings, other than in emergency or other exceptional circumstances.

## **Communication**

As we begin the 2020/21 school year can I please draw your attention to the various platforms which are used to communicate with pupils, parents and carers at Grange Academy:

- Our School App: installation instructions are being issued along with this letter.
- Our School Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/eastayrshiregrangeacademymain2017/>
- Our School Twitter: @grange\_academy1
- Our School Email: grange.academy@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Thank you again for your support of your child's learning, we simply cannot wait to welcome them back to school.

Kindest regards,



Robert Johnston  
Head Teacher