

Hello! Even though the return to school has been very different, we are delighted to say that it has also been an incredibly positive start to the school year. Parents and carers have been so supportive and a big, extra thank you to the families of Hickling children.

The team have made excellent use of the start to this half term to get the children settled. They are feeling safe and excited to be back in school with friends. The team have gotten to know each child really well. As a result, they are now supporting the children to develop all their skills, based on the staff's knowledge of the children's individual starting points. A big focus for all schools is to fill the gaps that have occurred due to children missing so much school. The team are starting to use Tapestry to keep you informed of how you can support this. This is also a way for you to share achievements and those all-important 'WOW' moments, you notice at home.

We are aware times are very different for all our families so please know that we do not underestimate how change and uncertainty can cause worries. As a school team, we wanted to let you know that we have also taken many positives from having to do things differently. We are introducing provision that is positively benefiting our children, enabling them to feel excited and ready to learn, even in these uncertain times. We are still moving the children forward in their learning, we are celebrating progress and we still set positive challenges to keep moving them on. We still have the same expectations and determination that every child will be happy in our school and make super progress, from their starting point, to help them reach their potential in all areas of their academic and personal development.

We will soon be sending information about Parents' Evening and your child's PE days (Y1 & Y2). Parents' Evening will be via a telephone call but we will send a separate letter out with more detail. If you do have any questions or worries, please be reassured you can still talk to the team. Either mention at drop off or collection if you would like to speak to your child's teacher or, email the office (office@ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk) to ask for someone to give you a call, or send a message via Tapestry. Although we cannot talk face to face in school, we are still keen to keep the good communication that we have always had with our families. It just looks a little different!

I know we would normally use this space to keep you updated with dates for your diary.

With the current climate, the events we have previously run, that enable parents and carers to come into school, cannot take place. Even though we all know we are doing this to keep everyone safe and families are both understanding and supportive of this we want to reassure you the children will continue to have positive experiences as they always have done.

The team are very creative and are finding ways to share things with you and keep you updated. Although key events, such as Christmas, will feel different from a parent perspective, we will still be celebrating. Classes will share a Christmas something on Tapestry, we will have Christmas jumper day and lots of crafts. The kitchen team are already planning an alternative packed lunch Christmas dinner. It will be fab!

RSE Curriculum: Thank you for taking time to look at the draft policy and contribute any thoughts you had around the RSE curriculum. To keep you informed of what your child will be doing and learning in relation to this curriculum area, every year group will let you know the theme or focus, in the weekly communication diary.

Special Educational Needs (SEN):

At Arden Grove, our children are at the centre of everything we do. We truly value developing excellent relationships with children and their families, which is key to fulfilling our aim of identifying and addressing the needs of all pupils as early as possible. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or would like some support and advice about additional needs and how we can help in school. In addition to this, Norfolk's 'SEND Local Offer' provides a wide range of information about what support is available in Norfolk and how to access it. You can find it here:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer>

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We are trying to ensure we do not bombard you with lots of information that might not be relevant to your child or year group. We have found it is helpful to email key information. We know some people have problems with getting app notifications. We are still using the app but if you have trouble getting app messages on your mobile device, you can sign up for the app updates via email. If you go to our home page <http://www.ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk/> and scroll down you will find the subscribe option (see below).

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Enter your email address to receive notifications of new posts by email.

Safeguarding:

This is such an important aspect of school life and we wanted to keep you updated. Last week you should have received an email with a PDF of the key safeguarding staff and safeguarding governor.

We are also in the process of reviewing our AUP (Acceptable User Policy) which outlines how we use technology safely at school and how you can support at home. This is particularly important in the current climate, when technology is used more than ever. We will email you the policy, once agreed by Governors, so you are aware of what we can all do to ensure children use technology to safely support their education and development. A copy of the policy will also be available on the school website.