



28/05/2020

# We only part to meet again.

Over the past ten weeks, society has undergone seismic changes and generations will continue to deal with the aftershocks of the global pandemic and the government's actions. Everyone has played an important role in minimising the risk of transmitting the virus, however the current situation is not a long term solution. For many, these past few months have been a painful and worrying time, whilst others have reconnected with their family in ways that - prior to lockdown - were impossible. Individuals may yearn for a return to how things used to be, yet others desire a new approach to living in a post-Covid-19 society. Ryefield Primary stands ready to play its part in bringing the community back together and this newsletter will detail some of the arrangements the school, governing body and board of trustees have put in place to welcome *some* pupils back to school.

The government was clear in their intention for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return to school. They earmarked a date in June and then set the wheels in motion for facilitating that return. I feel it is fair to say that given the way the government has -to date - handled issues such as procuring PPE equipment and ventilators for the NHS; putting a protective ring around care homes, and shifted its approach from pursuing herd immunity to implementing lockdown procedures has

elevated people's anxiety, with many people reluctant to send their children to school, or deviate from the new normal of current social distancing guidelines.

Ryefield's staff have worked tirelessly to provide some level of continuity for pupils, whether they be key worker children or students learning from home. With less than 48 hours notice we mobilised to provide online learning in English, Maths, Science and Computing, we continue to provide physical resources for parents unable to print out worksheets at home, and have endeavoured to contact every child in the school so that they may speak to their teacher. Many of the students seem to have become accustomed to lie-ins! Furthermore the school has created an online TV show called MoTV (Moments of Triumph TV) that celebrates and connects their individual achievements. Content has ranged from presenting a science experiment, reading a story, riding a bike, to showcasing trapeze skills. You truly have amazing children.

Now we find ourselves ready to start anew, and your children will experience Ryefield as something familiar but different. The learning experience that will be put in place will be geared to accelerating progress, reducing gaps and developing resilient children. All of this will be done in a fashion which promotes social distancing and good hand hygiene; last week's newsletter detailed many of the arrangements put in place. The school's offer will continue to evolve; I am particularly conscious that Ryefield needs to redouble its efforts to ensure distance learning is on a par with the learning which occurs in school (although there is no substitute for having a teacher in front of your child). In the coming weeks, there will be changes to the ways in which we provide online learning.

School staff are willing and happy to play their role in the national effort of keeping society heading in the right direction, and we are looking forward to teaching children again. However it must be done in a measured and controlled fashion, and this is where you - as parents - have a decision to make. I urge you to read the documents which detail the school's approach to reopening. They are lengthy



tomes, but given the circumstances I hope you would not expect anything else of us. Next week I will provide you with links to the documents which detail the effort the school has taken to reopen, they will include:

- C-19 Strategic Plan
- C-19 Reopening Plan
- C-19 Risk Assessment
- C-19 Home School Agreement
- C-19 Infection Control Policy

After reading these documents, parents in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes will need to decide if they intend on sending their child back to school for the remainder of the academic year, or continue to educate them at home akin to the enhanced provision that Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will receive. The government and local authority have made it clear that parents who choose to educate their child at home will not - at this current time - have any punitive measure imposed upon them. The school will ensure they receive enhanced home learning.

As a father myself I share many of the concerns and anxieties that you may well have. The school will support whatever decision you make. All I can ask is that you read the information available, discuss it with those closest to you, and follow your parental instinct.



## KEY WORKER UPDATE

We anticipate that as more workplaces reopen our key worker provision (KWP) will have a noticeable peak in demand. I would like to reiterate that our position is very clear and we believe that “[every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.](#)”

Coronavirus advice clearly states that staff should be working from home where possible, and reducing social interaction as much as we can by keeping pupil and staff numbers in school to the absolute minimum, whilst maintaining safety for the children in our care. Should demand exceed our capacity to offer places **and maintain social distancing guidelines**, then we are likely to implement a cap on numbers and places will be offered initially to those who have been using the service over the past 10 weeks.

The government has clarified that children, with at least one parent or carer, who are identified as critical workers can send their children to school if required, however due to low availability of places in school, if you can keep your child at home, you should do so. Furthermore if your work shift ends then we would expect your child to be picked prior to the end of the school day.

With current staff numbers we are unable to provide before and after school club provision, so school will currently only be open from 8.30- 3.20

Lunches will be provided by our catering team. So, Pupils who would normally receive either Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception and KS1 pupils) or Free School Meals have the option to order via ParentPay. Pupils who normally bring packed lunches are free to continue to do so.

**We do not expect pupils to wear their school uniforms**, please ensure that they wear sensible clothing and footwear: learning and associated activities will take place both inside and outside of the classroom.

Once school has reopened to pupils from N, R, Year 1 and Year 6, the entrance to KWP will be via Ryefield Rascals (the breakfast club).

We will continue to provide regular updates via the usual channels:

Newsletter

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

## Coronavirus

Wash your hands with  
soap and water more  
often for 20 seconds



Palm to palm



The backs of hands



In between the fingers



The back of the fingers



The thumbs



The tips of the fingers

Use a tissue to turn off the tap.  
Dry hands thoroughly.

