



10/07/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an absolute delight to welcome our children back to school over the last few weeks and judging from the feedback from pupils and parents, I know the children have loved coming back to school. Managing this crisis has not been easy for any of us and I am so grateful to our wonderful staff who have made offering every child the opportunity to come back to school a possibility.

Last Thursday the Government announced that schools are to reopen for all pupils full-time from the start of the autumn term. At Ryefield, we welcome the news as we realise how important school is for the children's education and wellbeing. Understandably, some of you may be anxious about the news and I hope that this letter will put your mind at ease.

How will social distancing work in school?

To minimise the contact between individuals, we have been advised to divide pupils into separate groups or 'bubbles' consisting of year groups and subdivided into individual classes. We will stagger breaks, start and finish times to prevent crowding in corridors or playgrounds and to minimise contact between bubbles. Assemblies and other events requiring mixing of bubbles will not happen. Some areas such as the school hall and ICT suite will need to be used by different bubbles at different times, but will be cleaned regularly and between sittings.

What changes will be made in classrooms?

Classrooms (Y1-6) will be rearranged with forward-facing desks with pupils spaced as much as possible. The current 15-child cap on class sizes will no longer be in place, so pupils will be in their normal class groups. Equipment will not be shared between classrooms unless thoroughly cleaned first. Teachers will teach from the front as much as possible, dependent on the age of the children. Children will not need to distance from each other within a bubble, but will be reminded to distance as much as possible from other bubbles. Each year group will benefit from a period of transition into their new classes, this may include aspects of learning from their previous setting.

How will we keep the pupils and school clean?

Pupils will be reminded to clean their hands regularly, especially when they arrive at school, return from breaks, or after eating. Additional hand sanitiser stations may also be set up. Hygiene expectations will be communicated daily to pupils and built into school routines and culture. Throughout school, additional cleaning schedules will be implemented, particularly focusing on rooms shared between groups or surfaces that are frequently touched. Children will **NOT** need to wear full school uniform and, at the first instance, will not be required to bring a school bag into school. Resources such as homework and reading books will be allowed home. Pupils will be limited to certain equipment and September's equipment list is as follows:

- A clear, sturdy, zippable plastic wallet ([click here to see a recommended style](#)) with your child's name written on it.
- A named water bottle
- Reading Record and Homework books (provided by the school)
- Reading book (from school and/or free choice)
- Pencil case which needs to contain HB pencils, writing pen ([friction pens are best](#)), an eraser, a sharpener, highlighter, glue stick and either colouring pencils or crayola twistable. **NO FELT TIPS.**



What will the learning look like?

Our curriculum will still be broad and ambitious. All subjects will still be taught and although we will focus on filling any gaps in learning, we will still have high expectations for all our pupils. In September, once the children have settled back into the school routine, we will assess each child to see where they are and will create tailored plans for each child. In the Autumn term, there will be an increased focus on wellbeing, emotional and social education. Sports and physical education will go ahead, but using our outdoor sports areas as much as possible. Trips can resume from September, Ryefield will carefully risk-assess all external visits, however there will be no residential trips for the academic year 20/21. It is expected that national primary assessment will still take place in Summer 2021 to help understand the impact of the 2020 lockdown on this cohort of pupils nationally.

What about school lunches?

For the first part of the autumn term the school canteen will offer a packed lunch option which will consist of a sandwich/roll/wrap, snack, fruit and a drink. The school is putting together measures to be able to offer hot dinners, however we do not want to rush this process and anticipate having it in place for October at the earliest.

Will we provide wrap around care?

We are fully aware that many of our parents depend on Breakfast Care and After School Care and so this will function from September. We will aim to keep the children in consistent groups as much as possible, but acknowledge that this might not be possible at all times. We aim to start extra-curricular clubs in October and we will keep you informed.

What happens if a child/teacher develops coronavirus symptoms?

Parents are the frontline in protecting the school and we will insist that children who are ill (even with what appears to be a minor illness) are not sent into school. If a child/teacher develops symptoms at school they will be sent home and advised to get tested for Covid-19. We will ask for the result to be shared with school. Depending on the outcome of that test, the class bubble will also be sent home. Swift action will be taken if someone tests positive for coronavirus with robust procedures in place to deal with this. We will also actively engage with NHS Test and Trace.

Is it optional for children to go back to school?

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from September, the usual expectations on school attendance will apply. Sanctions can be applied for non-attendance.

Do pupils who are clinically vulnerable have to return to school?

If a child cannot attend school because they are deemed clinically vulnerable, a plan will be drawn up and the school will provide remote education and additional support. Children who are self-isolating due to coronavirus or are following other clinical advice will not be penalised for their absence. Children who live with those who are clinically vulnerable can and should attend school. Further details will be sent out prior to the start of the Autumn term so that you are aware of all the specifics. If you have any individual concerns, please email the school office on ryefield.enquiries@ryefieldprimary.org.uk

The school will continue to update its risk assessments and guidance for parents, so over the summer break please check your emails and follow the school on Facebook. This will ensure that you can remain up to date with the school's current plans. We look forward to welcoming all the children back in

September. We are fully aware of the huge task ahead but know that, with your support, we can support our children to get back on track to make the academic, emotional and social progress that they are all capable of.

Colin Tucker



Term Dates 2020-2021

Autumn term 2020

Wednesday 2nd September – INSET: Staff only

Thursday 3rd September – School opens for children

Friday 23rd October – School breaks up for half term

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October - Half term

Monday 2nd November - School Opens

Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November INSET: Staff only

Friday 18th December – Term Ends

Spring term 2021

Monday 4th January – INSET: Staff only

Tuesday 5th January – School opens for children

Friday 12th February – School breaks up for half term

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February – Half term

Monday 22nd February – School Opens

Wednesday 31st March - Term ends



Summer term 2021

Monday 19th April – School opens

Monday 3rd May – Bank Holiday

Friday 28th May – School breaks up for half term

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June – Half term

Monday 7th June - School opens

Friday 2nd July – INSET: Staff Only

Friday 21st July – Term Ends

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd July - Staff Prep Days - Staff only

Please be aware these dates are subject to change

