

20/11/2020



Operation: Christmas

As we head towards December, our attention begins to focus on Christmas and the celebrations and parties that would be happening both in school and at home. At Ryefield, we will adjust our existing traditions to ensure that they can continue. For example:

Christmas Cards: Children can bring in Christmas cards, however they *must* only be for children within their year group bubble. Experience has shown us that the vast majority of children only send cards to classmates or pupils in the parallel classroom.

Nativity¹: We shall be videoing the Nativity and making it available to parents. In order to help us with its production, we ask that you grant us permission to film and share your child's performance. This means all parents can view the show - as they would if the performance was held in the hall.

KS1 Christmas Show: Again this will be videoed and shared with the school community. As with the nativity, this shall be shared online.

Pantomime: We would have loved to take Y1 to watch The Snowman, however theatres are not taking bookings. We hope to re-establish this next year (and may offer it across Y1 and Y2). However, the school has registered to watch the Compass theatres pantomime, which will be streamed into classrooms.

¹ Many parents have already granted the school permission to use their child's image and -where appropriate - we may contact those parents who have not completed the form.

Ryefield also encourages your children to remember that this is a time of year where we should think about the needs of others, over the needs of ourselves. A group of likeminded parents and staff have banded together to form **Operation: Christmas**. This initiative is about people coming together to help improve their lives and make this time of year a little shine a bit brighter for some members of our school community. We are asking you to complete a simple neighbourly act: to help us create Christmas hampers that will be gifted to members of the school community.

In order for us to create hampers that contain a wide variety of items, we are asking year groups to bring in specific items from the following list:

Year Group	Contribution
Nursery and Reception	Hot chocolate, jellies, or custard
Year 1	Seasonal savouries such as mince pies or biscuits
Year 2	Pasta, rice or dried fruit
Year 3	Tinned soup or condiments (ketchup, mustard, etc)
Year 4	Tinned fruit or preserves (jam, marmalade, relish etc)
Year 5	Tinned vegetables or spreads (Nutella/Chocolate Spread)
Year 6	Tinned meat or cereals/porridge

Please could all donations be in by Friday 4th December.

Social distancing on the playground

The school would like to urge all parents to adhere to the social distancing expectations set out by the government. We appreciate that there may be times

where parents congregate in areas to collect pupils, however we rely on your adherence to the guidance to help us minimise the risk of infection. Furthermore, we urge all parents to exit the site as soon as they have dropped their child off. Please **do not** gather in huddles and groups - especially on the patch of grass that is located at the front of the school. Finally, we would like to remind parents that there are markings on the playground to indicate the flow of traffic (arrows) and that they are expected to stay 2m from their child's classroom door, as indicated by the footprint stencils.

We appreciate your help in this matter.

Free School Meals

Currently school lunches cost £2.00 per day or £10.00 per week which must be paid via your child's Parent Pay account in advance of your child taking their meal. If you do not have your child's Parent Pay account details please ask the office for more details.

If you currently receive any of the following benefits your child could be entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think your child may be eligible you can apply today by completing an application form on <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>, the application takes about 5 minutes to complete and they will tell you immediately if your application is successful.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish their phase of schooling (primary or secondary).

Children in Reception to Year 2 receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative however they can still be eligible for FSM which brings in extra funds for the school. Even if your child won't be taking free school meals we would encourage you to apply as the school receives additional funding for children registered for free school meals.

Should you have any questions about school meals please speak to the school office.

Creative Hair Day!

Wednesday 25 November

This year, Ryefield will be trying something new to help raise funds and resources for the school. Previously we would often ask children to donate £1 to the school in order to be able to wear their own clothes. Given that children currently wear their own clothes, this is not an option. So we are looking to try something different: we are asking pupils to become creative hair stylists for the day. It might be a mohawk wig, some washable (**non permanent!**) spray-on hair colour, or your child's locks and tresses sculpted into either a spider, a cup cake or a drink being poured.

Rather than ask for a £1, which will be difficult to manage as the school is avoiding any handling of cash, we ask that parents donate a book for their child's class.

If your household is anything like Mr. Tucker's then it's likely to have a few children's books that are in excellent condition, have been read and are just sitting on the shelf. Rather than have them collect dust, we are asking, in exchange for participating in Creative Hair Day, pupils donate a book that can be added to their class library. Children may even wish to write a message to future readers on the inside of the front cover.

All books will be quarantined for 96+ hours before being added to the class library.

BOOK SHED

REMINDER: If you are reluctant to access the library services within the local community, we would like to remind all families that we have a book shed at the front of the school. Adults and children are allowed to take any book for **FREE** and keep **FOREVER!** We value the importance of reading and this is one way of reducing the literacy gap for all.

We have a limited number of baby books available as well!



EYFS children

The EYFS team are asking parents to provide a waterproof puddle suit & wellies (that will remain in school on their peg) to enable children to fully access outdoor learning & forest school provision at Ryefield.

UNIFORM REMINDER

From Tuesday 5 January 2021, we will expect all children to return to school in their full uniform.

Boys and girls wear:

- A white polo shirt
- A white shirt (Y5&6)
- School jumper/cardigan
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- White socks to go with skirts, pinafore and summer dress

- Grey tights to accompany skirts and pinafore
- Grey socks to go with shorts and trousers
- Black formal school shoes (no trainers)

In the summer, girls can wear a light summer dress.

In Year 5 & 6 pupils must wear a white shirt with a school tie. Ties can be bought from the school office for £4.10 each.

The only exception to this rule will be on the days that your child has P.E. They will be required to come to school in clothing that is suitable for P.E., ideally trainers, tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt and a hoodie or sweater, as your child may well be enjoying outdoor PE in the bracing weather associated with January and February.



Term Dates

Autumn term 2020

Nasal FLU Vaccination: 20 November

CREATIVE HAIR DAY: 25 November (Donation required: a preloved child's book)

INSET: Thursday and Friday 26 + 27 November (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

End of term: Friday 18 December

Spring term 2021

INSET: Monday 4 January (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

Term starts: Tuesday 5 January

Half term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February

Term ends: Wednesday 31 March

Summer term 2021

Term starts: Monday 19 April

Half term: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June

INSET: FRIDAY 2 July (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

Term ends: Wednesday 21 July

Staff Prep Days: Thursday and Friday 22 + 23 July (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

