Dear Parents/ Carers

As you know, sadly but vitally the school is closed until further notice. This is part of the government strategy to reduce the spread of Coronavirus. The government has asked us to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. I realise this is distressing news for the entire school community and will leave many anxious, but I want to reassure everyone that we have spent a great deal of time preparing for this announcement. I feel very confident we have everything in place to ensure that we continue to support you and your children in the coming weeks and months.

Mrs Maharasingam
Head Teacher

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thank you to all the children and adults who dressed up as a book character or wore their pyjamas to celebrate World Book Day. We would also like to thank those of you who donated to the foodbank appeal, I am sure the food will be gratefully received.

Coronavirus: Rainbows in windows to spread joy

With social distancing and many places including schools closing because of coronavirus, children are connecting with each other by painting colourful rainbows and putting them in their windows for others to see.

Why not have a go, paint a rainbow, and put it in your window to spread the joy.
Official government advice to protect yourself against the Coronavirus is still to wash our hands.

1. Wet hands with clean, running water.
2. Liberally apply soap.
3. Lather your hands, including the backs and between your fingers while not forgetting about the area beneath your nails.
4. Scrub for a minimum of 20 seconds.
5. Rinse and dry.

As a school ordinarily we use non alcohol products. However Coronavirus can only be killed by sanitisers that contain at least 60% alcohol.

Please inform the office if your child should not have the gel applied for any medical, cultural or other reason.

More information can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance

The advice for anyone in any setting is to follow these main guidelines.

- If you have been in contact with someone with coronavirus or have returned from an affected area identified by the Chief Medical Officer as high risk and you are feeling unwell with a cough, difficulty breathing or fever, stay at home and use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service or call NHS 111.
- Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitiser if that’s all you have access to.
- To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don’t have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.
- Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

At the current time and based on our understanding of what is known of COVID-19 and other similar respiratory viruses, it is likely that older people and those with chronic medical conditions may be vulnerable to severe disease. As more information emerges, recommendations may change.
Rathfern’s Science week was a memorable event!

‘My favourite science experiment was ‘Magic milk’ because it was a nice way to see how things react to other substances’ - Khadijat, Year 3

‘The ice-cream was delicious – I’m going to make ice-cream at home!’ – Moreena, Year 3

Rathfern Science Fair

Across the week, we had science reading cafes, science-related assemblies and Rathfern’s first ever science fair! Children conducted various experiments, collected data and presented their findings in different ways. We hope to build on this year’s success in 2021 – watch this space…

Thank you to ALL the parents that attended the events took part and volunteered their time this week.

A special thanks to: Professor Irene and Doctor Trevor (YR), Nurse Oluwakemi (Y3) for their amazing assemblies on cells and DNA and nursing; and our science directors: Justin (Y2) and Yasemin (Y4). Thank you so much for your support; we’d love to have you again!

If you are keen to volunteer at the Science fair 2021, please leave your contact details at reception.
Fairtrade Fortnight

Rathfern took part in Fairtrade Fortnight this week raising awareness about exploitation of workers and the importance of FAIRTRADE. We combined the event with World Book Day promoting books that focus on social justice. Some of the activities on the day were: Assemblies, poetry, reading and baking banana cupcakes.

WE Day: Wednesday 4th March 2020

Rathfern’s Community Ambassadors joined the festival of WE Day 2020.

It was a day full of inspiring speeches and incredible performances. The children listened to the guest speakers who have made changes in their local communities and lives. The day’s events have inspired our children to continue to make a difference working on projects that support our school and local community.
Dear Parents/Carers, Nursery, Reception and Year 1,

We hope you are all well and are beginning to settle into your home learning routines.

We have planned a range of exciting activities for you to complete either independently or with your family whilst you are at home. We have included a timetable in your pack to help guide you through your day and help you plan ahead. Whilst your learning is very important, so is having some fun and spending time with the family you are with.

You are growing as effective learners, so whilst you complete your remote learning packs remember the learning attributes. Try your best and persevere. Beatrice the bee will be watching you to ensure you are putting in your best effort!

Read as much as possible whether it is a story, a comic or a recipe!

We are very proud of you all and will keep in contact as much as possible.

Miss Daley and the EYFS and Year 1 team

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FRIENDS OF RATHFERN
Online - fundraising

Hello Parents and Carers

I’m using a great website called easyfundraising to help raise money for Friends of Rathfern - simply by shopping online, easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,600 retailers such as Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Argos, NEXT and Booking.com.

Our retailers then make a small donation to say ‘thank you’ and easyfundraising gives those free funds to the cause.

Please register using this unique link – just search for 'Friends of Rathfern' and click ‘support us’ -
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofrathfern/?invite=MG8H8U&referral-campaign=s2s

Plus, once you’ve signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 donation. There is no catch or hidden charges and Friends of Rathfern will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you,
Friends of Rathfern

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HOME LEARNING

Dear Parents/Carers, Nursery, Reception and Year 1,

We hope you are all well and are beginning to settle into your home learning routines.

We have planned a range of exciting activities for you to complete either independently or with your family whilst you are at home. We have included a timetable in your pack to help guide you through your day and help you plan ahead. Whilst your learning is very important, so is having some fun and spending time with the family you are with.

You are growing as effective learners, so whilst you complete your remote learning packs remember the learning attributes. Try your best and persevere. Beatrice the bee will be watching you to ensure you are putting in your best effort!

Read as much as possible whether it is a story, a comic or a recipe!

We are very proud of you all and will keep in contact as much as possible.

Miss Daley and the EYFS and Year 1 team
Year 2 School Closure

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 2,

We hope that you are looking forward to completing a range of activities that we have planned for you whilst you are away from school. Look at the timetable in your exercise books, plan your day and discuss your rich learning with an adult.

Knowledge is always waiting for you to soak up and develop your growth as an empowering individual. Keep smiling, and as a learner showcase all of the hard work and effort you have put into Year 2 so far. Be creative in your writing, amazing mathematicians in your maths, expressive artists in your art and deepen your knowledge in all areas of your learning, whilst you are away from school.

REMEMBER to read, read, and do more READING! Become an author of your own story. A book can take you on a journey of discovery through language and your imagination.

Beatrice and Sally will be buzzing and weaving their webs around you as you complete each task.

You’re never fully dressed without a smile!

Miss Roach, Miss Dsouza and the Year 2 Team

Year 2 Daily Timetable Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning stretches P.E.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English – Writing or Reading Comprehension Task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths – 2 tasks from the pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwriting and Phonics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic or Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Reading 30 minutes a day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 3

Year 3 are making good progress this year and Miss Adegbuyi and I are keen to build upon this success! We would like your children to continue to experience a broad and balanced curriculum. As guidance, we have included a provisional timetable of learning inside their exercise books. Please also find attached a list of key websites that can be used to support your child's learning journey whilst the school is closed.

Ms Emanuel & Ms Adegbuyi
Dear parents and carers,

Year 4 are making good progress this year and Mrs Bayles and I wish the children all the best completing a wide range of activities at home. We would like your children to experience a broad and balanced curriculum during their time at home so we have put together two learning packs to further support them in the most structured way.

Please encourage your child to complete the given learning daily, and stick to a timetable to give them a good sense of routine. As guidance, we have included a provisional timetable to support with daily routine. Additionally, we have given every child a purple exercise book for children to record other learning in.

We know that this could be a challenging time for you and your children, but remember that knowledge is always out there, waiting to be discovered by all of you. It is time for your children to show their understanding of our learning attributes: self-regulate and stick to the timetable, focus on and put effort into their learning from home, be independent to allow you time to work, collaborate with you to complete their chores, persevere with the change of routine, be curious and challenge themselves to discover the knowledge out there, take time to reflect on what makes them happy.

Please keep an eye on the school website for regular updates and useful learning resources. Also, please find attached a list of key websites which can be used to support your child’s learning journey whilst the school is closed.

Ms Gok, Mrs Bayles and the Year 4 Team
Year 5 & 6 School Closure

Dear parents & carers,

We would like to begin by informing you that Years 5 & 6 are both making good progress this year. Regardless of the school closures, we as a teaching team would like your children to continue to experience a broad and balanced curriculum. During these closures, we as a phase team, will be strongly committed to ensure that your child will continue to receive the best possible teaching and learning, whilst at home. To achieve this, the teachers in Year 5 and 6 will upload useful information, teaching guides and learning onto the school website so that your child can access everything that they normally would, if the school were to be open. We as teachers believe that the children’s self-regulation, curiosity and independence will safeguard their education, whilst the children are at home, so that they can continue to make progress over the coming weeks.

Below is a recommended timetable of each day. We recommend working being between 2-3 hours in blocks per day, with breaks in between. Your child should do no more than a total of 3 hours a day of work. We also strongly recommend at least 20 minutes of physical exercise.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. Ellington

Example Y5 & 6 School closure Daily timetable

This is an example timetable for you to use so that you can structure your days, during the school closure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15</td>
<td>Check Rathfern website for updates and learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15-9:35</td>
<td>Reading Comprehension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35-10:15</td>
<td>Writing (in Writing book provided)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15-10:45</td>
<td>Free time with Snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:30</td>
<td>Maths Learning (in maths book provided and using the pack)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:00</td>
<td>Exercise (PE examples) and free play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00-13:30</td>
<td>Science/History/Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30-14:00</td>
<td>Grammar and Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00-14:45</td>
<td>Relaxation (TV/Board Games)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:45-15:30</td>
<td>Art/D.T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>