



Rathfern Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 22nd May

I hope you and your families are well. Please get in touch with your class teacher if you have problems accessing Google Classroom.

As you may have seen in the news, the Government has announced the potential re-opening of schools from June 1st at the earliest.

The Prime Minister stated that if the threat of Coronavirus is reduced further:

Primary schools could begin to reopen in smaller groups from June 1 for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

I imagine that for some of you this will be a source of happiness and for others it will be a cause of anxiety. Or, like me, you may have both emotions. As an educator I am desperate to get as many children back to school as possible. But as a parent and leader of our school I worry about everyone's safety.

Our school value of community is the one we have relied on most during this time and so, as we move to the next stage, we are trying to balance the needs of all members of our community - children who need to learn and stay well, families who need to work, teachers and support staff who need to feel safe. This is the difficulty we face. And whilst we certainly don't have all the answers, we are committed to communicating with you as transparently as possible so you can make your own decisions.

At present we are making plans so we are ready to open to more children from June 1st. We are also continuing to plan and provide online provision for the rest of the academic year for children not coming on site. Over the half term period we will get everything ready to ensure safety measures are in place. These plans have been carefully developed based on the survey responses received this week. After the virtual Q & A we require parents who are undecided to make a firm commitment regarding school attendance by Thursday 28th May 12pm.

After this time, we cannot guarantee a place at school for anyone who has a change of heart.

In addition, if you are a key Worker parent/s returning to work in need of a place at the skeleton school you will need to inform us by Thursday 28th May in order to be guaranteed a place.

Finally, we are unable to accommodate a place in the skeleton school as well as a place in new class bubbles (Year 6, Rec and Y1). A place in both will breach the integrity of both class bubbles and create a safety risk.

Attendance to onsite school



We are not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school. You know your children and personal situation best. There will be no fines, no referrals. We will keep you updated with all our preparations, so you can make an informed decision.

Thank you to parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who have completed our surveys about sending children in already.

More specifically:

If your **child or anyone** in your household has symptoms of coronavirus, everyone must self-isolate and not come in. School children will be eligible for testing and you should take medical advice by calling 111.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable they must maintain strict social distancing and they must not come in. If your child lives with someone in this category they must not come in.

If your child is clinically vulnerable they must not come in. If someone in your household falls into this category please seek medical advice about whether it is safe to send your child in.

We will release more details about our opening plans next week. There will also be a 'Virtual Q&A' with myself and SLT next Tuesday 26th at 4:30pm. I would encourage parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to join (as well as other interested parents)

To access this meeting, we will use ZOOM. It is helpful to have the app installed on your phone or device, but this can also be accessed through a laptop or PC. Please use this link to access the meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79153647974?pwd=cUNib2RUN1BDZi9Ed1ZNRVpsdWhaQT09>

We will text this link again in a reminder text on the day. Please email admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk with any issues.

Principles of our approach

Set-out below are the principles we will employ in the re-opening phase. It is important to note that we cannot give guarantees about safety. As the Government has acknowledged in their guidance, younger children cannot socially distance and whilst we will put in place as many safety measures as we can, parents will have to assess the risks themselves.

1. Gradual and phased

Given the unprecedented nature of this situation we think it is right to go slowly - a year group at a time. We need to review everything regularly, helping make children as safe as possible. In practice this means:

- Not all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be back on June 1st. At present we are proposing to welcome Year 6 on June 1st and 2nd (in addition to the children of key workers and some specific children by invite) .This will all be confirmed next week.
- We will review everything during the first week and see whether we think we can keep our safety protocols for Year 6. On this basis, we will decide to welcome Year 1 back on Thursday 11th June and Friday 12th June. We will endeavour to communicate this to you as soon as possible.

2. Outside is better than inside



Our understanding is that the virus is less likely to be passed on outside. So, in practice this means:

- Where possible children will learn/play outside (so you may need to send them in with coats which need to stay within the class bubble)
- At first we will only use classrooms where doors can be opened outside (we will leave them open as standard practice).
- We will use the whole site to keep the youngest children as safe as possible.

3. We will work in 'bubbles' - limiting contact

In practice this means:

- Classes will be no more than 13 with one teacher and a Teaching Assistant for Reception and Year 1. In Year 6 where children are more able to keep two metres apart, classes may go slightly higher but not significantly and this is dependent on space.
- These bubbles will be kept separate from others for the whole day - including staggered lunch and break. Within the pod, we will limit physical interaction between children as much as possible
- Where a child or adult has Covid 19 symptoms the pod may be asked to self-isolate. If there is a confirmed case the bubble will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days

4. We will follow protective measures

In practice this means (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Washing hands on entry, before and after break and lunch and before home time
- Parents separated for staggered pick and drop offs (one parent only for pick up and drop off)
- Respiratory hygiene reinforced 'catch it, bin it, kill it' and then wash hands
- Regular cleaning of key, well used surfaces and areas
- Reduction in resources in rooms
- Reduction in mixing within bubbles (two meters apart where possible)

Further information coming next week

- Confirmation of re-opening plans, including school day times
- Continued development of Google Classroom
- Advice on travelling to school

Our overriding principle over the next few weeks is the well-being of everyone. We will pause our reopening plans if we feel we cannot follow the government guidance and/or our own safety protocols. Thank you once again for all your support over recent weeks and please get in touch with Naheeda Maharasingam (admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk) if there are any questions or concerns.

Mrs Maharsingam



OUTSTANDING LEARNERS

Nursery:

Lukas for making so much effort with his learning. It has been great to see you challenge yourself to do so much drawing and writing!

Reception:

Oak: Almeer for creativity and engagement in his practical learning activity in maths.

Elm: Caiden for his effort and progress in writing.

Birch: Martha for putting in lots of effort and always challenging herself.

Year 1:

Willow: Karina for her effort in Maths this week.

Maple: Iman for putting so much effort into a 3D creation of her own dinosaur.

Year 2

Hazel class: Yusuf, Naomi and Shayaan

Cherry Blossom class: Sam, Kaydee, Bilal

Year 3

Sycamore class: Kelvina, Elysia, Juwairiyah

Guelder Rose: Sophia, Noah, Kadijah

Year 4

Eucalyptus Class : Joseph, Aisha, Temani and Aya

Sweet Chestnut Class: Morayo, Alex, Kisara and Parris

Year 5

Juniper Class:

Riyaan - For persevering with Google Classroom and turning in learning of increasingly higher quality. Well done and keep pushing yourself to exceed you best!

Godwin - For persevering with Google Classroom and turning in learning of increasingly higher quality. Well done and keep pushing yourself to exceed you best!



Paige - For persevering with Google Classroom and turning in learning of increasingly higher quality. Well done and keep pushing yourself to exceed you best!

Magnolia Class:

Jack - For responding well to feedback and really improving the quality of his learning on Google Classroom.

Seth - For showing a consistent commitment to his learning on Google Classroom and producing good standard of learning.

Year 6

Cedar:

Jasmiah: Consistently completing her maths to a very high standard and submitting it on time.

Theo: Excellent grammar scores and wrote a very reflective end of year pupil reflections.

Elder:

Evie: Her guided reads are full marks every week and she has shown incredible effort in all of her learning.

Kadiatu: Trying very hard in her learning and her maths is getting better every week.

