



Rathfern Primary School
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Monday 20th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I very much hope that you and your family are well in this period. The recent pandemic has touched us all and we are now all getting used to different home routines and ways of working.

Please watch my end of term video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5mc32UMzdk>

You will have been shocked and saddened by the unlawful killing of George Floyd. As a consequence of this incident we held a number of assemblies for pupils from a range of year groups. The staff have been talking about race and racism and we remain committed to challenging racism in all its forms.

Current priorities

There is however much more work to do before the term ends. The government published its plans for full reopening on 2nd July 2020.

Since this date staff at this school have spent time reading, reviewing, discussing and evaluating the guidance in preparation for September.

I wanted to share with you brief details about this work so that you remain up to date and are able to contribute positively to our draft plans. I hope you have found the virtual Q &As with Year Group Leaders reassuring and informative.

Summer learning Packs

Year group paper packs are available to collect from the main school office.



Classrooms changes

Current class	Going to / new class teacher	New Class Name
	NURSERY Ms Daley / Ms Daisy	Coral Reef
	Reception Ms Perret	Mangrove
	Reception Ms McGrath	Ocean
	Reception Ms Enver	Stream
Oak	Y1 Ms Ritson	Storm
Birch	Y1 Ms Reid	Waterfall
Elm	Y1 Ms Crawford	Cloud
Maple	Y2 Ms Roach	Avalanche
Willow	Y2 Ms Dsouza	Everest
Cherry Blossom	Y3 Ms Gok	Caldera
Hazel	Y3 Ms Rhule	Crater
Sycamore	Y4 Ms Emmanuel	Tsunami
Guelder Rose	Y4 Ms Mitchell	Typhoon
Sweet Chestnut	Y5 Ms Baker	Equator
Eucalyptus	Y5 Mr Ellington	Meridian
Magnolia	Y6 Mr Karimboccus	Panthalassa
Juniper	Y6 Ms Zulver	Pangea



Year 6 Leavers Barbecue

A beautiful farewell

Thank you to our extraordinary Year 6 children and parents for a wonderful Leavers barbecue. Thanks to Tyneca (FOR), Rose, David and the Year 6 Team Mr Ellington, Ms Zulver and Ms Oliva.



Key requirements for September 2020

Schools have been asked to implement procedures which address 5 key aspects or controls. These controls are :

- Inform the community that anyone who is ill is required to stay at home and not attend school.
- Ensure hand and respiratory hygiene practices are robust.
- Arrange for more frequent cleaning of the school.
- Encourage the community to engage with NHS test and trace.
- Establish procedures to work through bubbles and maximise distance where it is practicably reasonable to do so.

It is important to note that these are the requirements for every school in the country and not just our community. Schools may have different approaches, each fulfilling these requirements taking into account community, location, resources, size of premises, type of premises, staffing numbers, transport to and from school, ages of the pupils etc. In other words, you may find that two schools may approach these controls in very different ways but both will be entirely consistent with the key requirements.

However individual schools respond to the requirements, the guidance makes it clear that we will not be returning to school as it was pre -March 2020.

Important actions for parents /carers which will support an effective start to the new term

Parents, teachers and pupils will all need to play their part in ensuring that there is a successful start to the new term. What follows are some handy tips for parents based on the most recent guidance and excellent practice from other schools.

- If your child or someone in your household has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms you should not send them to school.
- Engage with NHS test and trace. If your child develops symptoms you should arrange for them to get a test and you should inform the school of the results of that test.
- Avoid speculating on social media. If you have any questions, please contact the school directly. Unfortunately, there have been instances of people posting false claims on social media which can unintentionally raise fear and anxiety within our community. It is much more effective to discuss any issues directly with school staff.
- Where possible, children and young people are encouraged to avoid public transport at peak times and to walk or cycle to school. If your child relies on public transport the following guidance will apply <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
- The school will be providing free schools meals and universal infant free school meals to those who are eligible. Parents whose circumstances have changed over recent months are strongly encouraged to apply for free school meals. Please contact the school before for further information.



Our planning: Staggered start and finish times for September

	MORNING	Break	Lunch	Playtime		Home time
		FRONT PLAYGROUND				
Reception	8.30	9.45	11.00-11.30	11.30-12.00	P	3.00
Year 1	8.45	10.00	11.30-12.00	12.00 – 12.30	FP	3.15
Year 2	9.00	10.15	12.00-12.30	12.30 – 1.00	FP	3.30
		BACK PLAYGROUND				
Year 3	8.30	10.30	12.30-1.00	1.00 – 1.30	BP	3.00
Year 4	8.45	10.00	1.00-1.30	12.30 - 1.00	BP	3.15
Year 5	9.00	10.15	1.30-1.45	1.00 –1.30	FP	3.30
Year 6	9.15	10.45-11.15	1.45-2.00	1.30 - 1.45	BP	3.45

In many ways, the school experience will be a different one to that experienced prior to March 2020. In order to ensure safe and successful schooling, the following is a list of things that may have to change for September 2020.

- Arrival and dismissal times to and from school.
- Classroom arrangements including seating plans.
- Social time arrangements and timings
 - Lunch arrangements and timings
- Behaviour policy to include reminders about following the social distancing and hygiene requirements
- Drop-off and collection routines for younger children.
- Parents must not congregate outside school gates.
- There may be a blended approach to learning with online educational materials being used to support the work completed in classrooms.
- Appointment times for those parents wishing to attend the school.
- Restrictions on visitors to the school

When	What
17 th July	Last Day of Term for children
20 th July	Staff INSET School closed
21 st July	Staff INSET
Tuesday September 1st	Staff INSET
Wednesday September 2nd	All children return to school

September Opening

This draft timeline is based on current guidance and is subject to change if the government changes its view. We will communicate with you if things do change:



How you can help

You can help us to make the new term get off to a positive start by explaining the relevant parts of this letter to your child. If there is information about your child which may impact how they react to these changes, please get in contact by using admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk and a member of our pastoral and well-being team (Unlocking Potential) will be in contact this week. We will be sending you more information later on in this week. You will also help us by completing the short survey here <https://>

I appreciate there has been a lot of detail in this letter, but I believe it is important that you are kept informed. If you have any questions, feedback or have comments, please include these in the survey sent via Parentmail. If you leave your name and telephone number someone from the school will call you to discuss the matter further. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful, enjoyable and safe summer. I am looking forward to welcoming back all our pupils in September 2020

Yours sincerely

Mrs Maharasingam

