



Rathfern Primary School
Rathfern Road, Catford, London SE6 4NL
E: admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk
T: 020 8690 3759

Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children are thriving, learning and happy at school. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support with keeping our children safe.

CHANGE OF PROCEDURES FOR SIBLING DROP OFF AND PICK UP

We appreciate this has been very difficult for some of our families but we want to ensure we minimise any possible risks of transmission. The safety of our pupils and staff is our first priority

Your kind words and efforts to follow our procedures are greatly appreciated!

When collecting or dropping off your child, please remember to follow social distancing guidelines and not gather in groups.

We also ask that you do not linger at drop off and collection points to help avoid congestion.

We have listened to your feedback and from **Tuesday 3rd November**, we have altered timings to reduce the time parents have to wait with multiple siblings.

Please see the **new timings**:

	Drop off	Pick up
Nursery	8.50-11.50	12.50 – 3.50
Rec & Year 3	8.30	3.00
Year 1 & Year 4	8.40	3.10
Year 2 & Year 5	8.50	3.20
Year 6	9.00	3.30

IF YOU ARE LATE - WE WON'T WAIT Please make sure you are on time. If you are late, that increases the risk of bubbles mixing and is not helping to keep our school and wider community as safe as possible. There will also be a fine of £5.00 for every 15 mins (or part of) that you are late.



DROP OFF AND PICK UP SAFETY

If you are unable to maintain a 2 metre social distance from other parents and carers during morning and afternoon drop off and pick up times, then we strongly advise you to wear a face covering to protect yourself and our Rathfern community.

In my assemblies, I have been reminding our children of how our Core Values support us to be upstanders to all forms of bullying and racism.

- Respect each other
- Always question your best
- Take responsibility
- Help and care about each other
- Everyone matters

TARGET SETTING

Next week is Target setting week where you will get a chance to discuss your child's progress and targets for the term. Please do encourage your child to be a part of the conversation as they are learning to become increasingly responsible learners.

BUG CLUB- VIRTUAL READING PROGRAMME

We are in the process of setting up 'Bug Club' - a virtual reading programme from Early Years to Year 6. Bug Club virtual reading books will complement our reading programme and will be in addition to the reading books your child brings home.

Class teachers will provide a selection of correctly pitched books for your child to choose from. Throughout the Bug Club book there will be short reading quiz questions to develop comprehension skills. Your child will receive instant feedback with regard to their answers and the chance to re-think the question if necessary. Class teachers will be able to track responses and address misconceptions back in class.

In the event of a bubble or wider school closure, the benefits of Bug Club will be that your child will always have appropriate reading material at home that can be accessed on a wide range of devices including smart phones.

Ms Baker, our English Lead, will provide more detailed information to you in next week's newsletter.

WATER BOTTLES



Please remember to send your child to school each day with a water bottle. At the moment water bubblers are turned off as they cannot be used for safety reasons. However, there are water dispensers for filling up bottles. We are not able to provide cups for children without a bottle.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER



The school photographer will be in on Friday 6th November to take individual photos of the children and with their siblings.

If you would like your child to have their picture with a sibling please email replies@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk with the name and class of all children concerned.

BOOK AMNESTY

Can we please remind all Parents/ Carers who have children currently in Years 1-3 to return the books given to them in the lockdown period. This is so they can be used by other children from Reception – Year 2.

NURSERY PLACES

Do you have a child or know of a child who turned 3 before September 2020 and is looking for a nursery place? At present we have 3 full time or 6 part time spaces available in the nursery. If you are interested please contact Gail or Inga in the School Office on 020 8690 3759 they will be happy to help you

COVID REMINDER:

- Please do not bring your child to the school gates if they are a close contact of a closed bubble as they should be self-isolating at home.
- IF you have symptoms or your family is showing symptoms, the whole family should be tested and the school informed so the necessary actions can be taken.
- We would also ask parents to wear a mask when waiting to drop or collect their child from outside the school. This not only keeps you safe but others also.

How can I support the school to reduce transmission?

- Wear a mask when bringing/collecting you child
- **Arrive at the allocated times for your child's year group**
- Do not congregate in large groups with other parents waiting to collect
- Leave the school gate as soon as you've collected your child.
- Re enforce the safety routines with your child: hand washing and distancing



IMPORTANT DATES

2020

Virtual Training events –Learning Attributes	Wednesday 21 st October
HALF TERM	Monday 26th – 30th October
STAFF INSET DAY	Monday 2nd November (School Closed)
Flu Immunisations	Monday 16 th November
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	Monday 21st December – Monday 4th January

2021

INSET days	Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th January
Children return to school	Wednesday 6 th January

SLT Virtual Meet

Many Thanks again to parents who joined us for our Virtual meet the SLT. A link will be sent via text before the meeting.

We will be holding Virtual SLT meetings every Friday 9:30am-10 am. You will be able to raise any questions you may have and hear more about our approach to keeping your child/children safe and educated.

A link will be sent via text before the meeting.

Should you have any Questions, comments and queries that you would like us to answer regarding the school closure or risk assessments you can now use our new email address: covid@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk

COATS AND LAYERED CLOTHING

As the weather grows colder and rainy days may be approaching, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. Currently we are required to keep external classroom doors open through the day which means classrooms can be quite cool. Please ensure your child always brings their school jumper or cardigan but is also wearing a long sleeved shirt, vest, thermal top/underwear or alternative under their uniform.

Please also ensure your child is bringing a waterproof coat with a hood to school. On days where there is light drizzle or rain we do still go outside for breaks so the students need appropriate outerwear on these occasions.

MOST IMPORTANTLY please ensure that **ALL clothing is labelled** clearly, we are still finding many items without names so sadly we cannot return them to their owner



ABSENCES:

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, then a parent or guardian must contact the school office directly before 8:30am. You can either email attendance@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk or call the main reception on 020 8690 3759 and press Option 1 to leave a message on the absence line.

Please remember to speak clearly, stating your child's name, reason for absence, class or year group and the date you expect them to return to school. Please note that if you do not call to report an absence, their absence will not be authorised.

COVID ABSENCE

If the absence is due to Covid symptoms (cough, high temperature or lack of taste or smell) then please make sure you clearly state this when reporting the absence.

If your child or a member of your household has any Covid symptoms, then you must contact NHS 111 and follow their advice. Unless NHS 111 advises otherwise, students must not return to school unless they have isolated for 14 days or a negative test result has been forwarded to attendance@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk.

PRE – ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS

If your child has a pre-arranged appointment during school hours then please email attendance@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk with details and proof of the appointment at least 24 hours before the appointment.

Please avoid scheduling appointments during school hours and only do so in an emergency.

If your child needs to attend an emergency medical appointment, you must contact the school office as above as soon as possible. You must email proof of the appointment (appointment card/prescription/medical letter etc) to attendance@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk or the absence **will not be authorised**.

If your child needs to attend regular medical appointments during school hours, you must contact us to discuss your situation.

REMOTE LEARNING

If a pupil is absent from school due to illness then we do not expect them to participate in remote learning, they should take time to rest and recover. However, if a student is well enough to learn they should be attending school unless they are isolating due to Coronavirus.

If a student needs to isolate due to Coronavirus and are well enough to learn, parents should contact their class teacher to ensure they are able to access learning remotely, including joining parts of the lesson virtually where appropriate.

Lisa Baldwinson
Attendance Officer

