



Rathfern Primary School
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Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you had some rest over the half term break and were able to enjoy some of the nice weather that we saw last weekend.

*As you may have heard, Boris Johnson made an announcement to the Nation on Monday evening, setting out the roadmap for reopening schools following the national lockdown, which commenced in January. In his announcement, he has said that children will return to school from **Monday 8th March**. Collectively as a staff and school community, we will work together to ensure a safe return to school.*

Assuming no change to guidance issued this week, we look forward to welcoming back all children from Reception to Y6, on Monday 8th March.

We will have a parent briefing session next week, Tuesday 2nd March at 12.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96968541110?pwd=OEtXTFlibjFIYWgyN3RTRC9weHJ5dz09>

Meeting ID: 969 6854 1110

Passcode: 205568

There are some top -level messages worth noting at this stage: (Please remember)

- All children are expected to return to school unless they are clinically extremely vulnerable
- There will be a system of regular testing of staff
- Updated safety measures will be communicated to parents in our parent briefing and in a letter on Monday
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If your child is currently attending the onsite school provision, this will continue for the remaining week. **As we are planning for a full re-opening, we are not able to take any more students into the skeleton school next week.**



We are proud to inform you that Rathfern's Governing Body has endorsed Lewisham's **Embedding Race Equality Pledge**.

This Pledge underpins Lewisham schools approach to embedding Race Equality through:

- Curriculum
- Relationships
- Parents and Community
- Leadership

Embedding Race Equality - Pledge

We are expecting all Lewisham schools to publicly sign up to a pledge to Embed Race Equality and address Black Caribbean heritage as well as Black and Minority Ethnic under achievement.

This will entail a commitment to:

- Targeting ambitious outcomes for Black Caribbean heritage and Black and Minority Ethnic pupils.
- Reducing exclusions of Black Caribbean heritage pupils at all ages.
- Leaders and governors taking a whole school approach to embedding race equality.
- Transparent reporting and sharing of borough wide data trends.
- Working together in new ways and sharing good practice to embed race equality in our school cultures and curriculum.
- Actively developing high quality relationships with Black Caribbean heritage and Black and Minority Ethnic pupils and their parents.
- Improving Black representation in school leadership and governing bodies
- Lewisham schools holding each other to account. Lewisham Learning and Lewisham Council will internally support and challenge, including reporting annually to the Council, on the progress that is being made across Lewisham.

Catch Up Learning

The school has a comprehensive programme of catch up support. These interventions are constantly reviewed and targeted to support children's learning and the recovery curriculum. We are already planning the assessment approach for when the children return.

Parents will be invited to discuss their child's progress and any extra support they are receiving, during **Target Setting on the 23rd and 24th March**. We have been fully engaging with the National Tutoring Programme since the Autumn Term, supporting identified children in Key Stage 2, as well as targeted reading support in Key Stage

One. In Early Years, our Reception team have been trained in delivering the Nuffield Early Language Intervention for when the children return.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Arbor Portal

Launch date – 8th March

In trying to simplify all communications at Rathfern school, we have chosen Arbor, an MIS provider we already use which helps the school collect, store, manage and use all the information they need.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS, meaning the data isn't physically stored in school, making Arbor super secure, as computer theft or damage at the school would not lead to data loss or a data breach. It also means you can log into Arbor to see and update your child's information or make payments and bookings yourself!

How to get started

1. Wait for the email from your school telling you that Arbor is ready for you to use
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search for 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter the birthday of your child

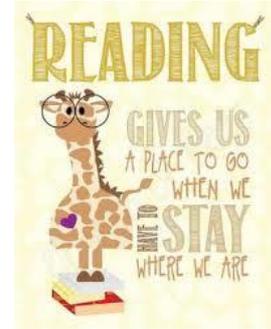
More detailed information will be emailed to you next week.

Please ensure we have your email address ; if you or someone you may know is not receiving our emails, please send an email to replies@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk.

It is important that you register as we will be gradually introducing the following:

- Target Setting - booking
- Meals - Payment
- Wraparound - Payment
- Breakfast Club - Payment
- Trips - Payment
- Clubs – Booking and Payment
- Music - Payment





Virtual Reading Cafe

Dear Parents and Carers,

Rathfern will be holding a school-wide 'Virtual Reading Café, starting from next week, Monday 1st to Friday 5th March, in place of our usual termly on-site reading café.

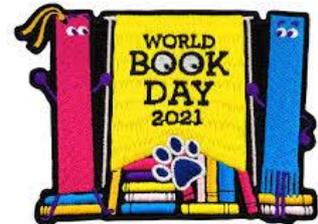
Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Assistants will be uploading videos of themselves sharing their favourite books with each other, ranging from picture books, poetry, modern and classic literature, as well as core texts representing our Rathfern community. These will all be accessible to watch with your children from the comfort of your home, through the **Virtual Reading Café Google Classroom page**.

We would be delighted if you could take part in the Virtual Reading Café at home by recording a similar video (or an audio version if you prefer) with your child and posting it to the same 'Virtual Reading Café Google Classroom'. You can choose any whole book, or part of a book, that you would like to share and post it at any time during the week. Depending on how experimental you are feeling, you could record the video in fancy dress or pyjamas, or use props and sound effects.

These videos will then be shared with children in every class across the following fortnight. We hope you can take part! Have lots of fun with it and help to develop Rathfern's LOVE OF READING!!

World Book Day

Next Thursday, 4th March 2021, is **World Book Day** which Rathfern will be celebrating virtually and in skeleton school.



Children will have a full day dedicated to books and reading; this will include activities such as: live story times with authors, audio books to listen to, drawing sessions with book illustrators, 'look insides' of the £1 books, book reviewing and so on.

Teachers will share with children how they can dress up for the day – whether that be pyjamas, fancy dress or as book characters.

Parents will be forwarded the £1 free book token virtually this year so look out for that. For more information and activities search: <https://www.worldbookday.com/>



Mental Health and Well Being

Top links to help and support Young people.

There are times when we all feel the strain. As parents and carers, there are ways we can support children and young people to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy.

Some children and young people have enjoyed being off school, while others will have really struggled – with the coronavirus outbreak keeping them at home and away from friends. Others may be coming to terms with family problems, loss or changes to their living situation.

With nationwide and local restrictions being regularly reviewed, they may also have to deal with self-isolating because of an outbreak in school or another period of school closure, or have worries about getting or passing on the virus. It's still uncertain what further changes we all may face.

Feelings like these will gradually ease for most, but there are always steps you can take to support them emotionally and help them cope with problems they face.

There's support available if you feel you or they need it.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/#custom-2column-share-shelf>

Please see the video for parents, carers and those working with children. It talks through some common worries and feelings that children may experience when returning to school after lockdown and how parents can support them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvZ8HZb0jIM>

Communicating with school

Please remember that the office hours are shorter 8.45-3.15 by appointment only, should you have any queries please phone us on 02086903759 or email admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk .



Target Setting Meetings SPRING 2

Please note that Parents' Evening is on 23rd and 24th March and will take place virtually. You will be able to book your time via Arbor from week commencing 8th March . This will be an important meeting to discuss your child's learning and well-being following this term of home learning.

IMPORTANT DATES 2021

Virtual SLT

The virtual SLT sessions will now be held **fortnightly**, the first one taking place on **Tuesday 2nd March at 12.30pm**

Please join us to hear about the latest updates and ask us any questions you may have.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96968541110?pwd=OEtXTFlibjFIYWgyN3RTRC9weHJ5dz09>

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Virtual Reading Café Week

Monday 1st – 5th March

Returning to School Parents briefing

Tuesday 2nd March at 12.30pm

World Book day

Thursday 4th March. <https://www.worldbookday.com>

Virtual Parent Meetings

Tuesday 23rd March & Thursday 25th March

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 31st March

Easter Holidays Thursday 1st April – Friday 16th April

Thank you, for your continued mammoth effort of home schooling - a tremendous feat! We look forward to this new half term, with the hope of a secure path to recovery this springtime.

Wishing you a safe and joy filled weekend.

Naheeda Maharasingam FCCT LLE

Head Teacher

CCT Network Lead Rathfern Research Hub

