



Rushwick C.E Primary School
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Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the staff and governors, we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. We are open as planned from tomorrow (Tuesday), although we have been needing to react very quickly to conflicting announcements in order to be ready for all the children to return to school for the new term.

You will be aware that Worcestershire is now in tier 3 and that there are growing concerns nationally around rising Covid19 infection levels. With this in mind, we have been reviewing all of this information, throughout the holidays, and we are writing to you to inform you of potential changes at Rushwick School this week. As with schools nationally, we are likely to have incidents of pupils or staff becoming unwell or self-isolating but we will continue to plan to keep open as many classes as possible.

In reviewing our risk assessments and the numbers of staff needed to safely operate the school (class and operations/site), we may sometimes need to move year group bubbles to online learning. In the unfortunate event of the whole school having to close, we would then only be open for pupils whose parents are critical workers or classed as vulnerable, in the short term. To prepare for this possible eventuality, we will this week be reviewing and gathering information on critical workers and vulnerable pupils. We will send out a communication over the coming days for you to complete if you are a critical worker and use this information to contact you in the event of a school closure. Please [click here](#) for guidance on critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings.

Rushwick School Covid19 Risk Assessment Update

In order keep everyone in our school community safe and well, if in any doubt, we strongly urge you to keep any child away from school if they are unwell, even if you consider it probably not Covid-19 related.

We can confirm that the following will remain in operation for the Spring Term:

- All the children kept within their own year group bubble throughout the day, with our lunchtime supervisors assisting staff with extra cleaning and supporting the younger pupils with lunches.
- Every year group to continue to be provided with a broad and balanced curriculum, prioritising English, Mathematics, key subject skills and wellbeing.
- Continuation with established staggered start and finishing times, with remote learning in place if and when a bubble needs to closed.
- Parents / carers and visitors to wear a face covering everywhere on the school grounds or building, and always observing social distancing (**two meters please**).
- On Friday afternoons, the school day for pupils at Rushwick School will continue to finish after the children have eaten their lunch, with staggered finishing times.
- Lunchtimes will continue to be half hour long, followed afterwards by teacher led enrichment play opportunities aimed at boosting physical and mental health.
- Child care available on Friday afternoons for those with an acute need, i.e. **critical workers** and **vulnerable children**.
- Flexible wrap around care, via 'Little Stars', remains in place for families that need to access it, from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, with children kept in Key Stages.

- Friday afternoons and some after school days will continue to be used for some targeted catch-up teaching for KS2 pupils and PPA for all class teachers.
- All available teaching assistant hours used to support the children in their bubbles and to ensure the pupil-adult ratios are as small as possible.
- Targeted support staff hours increased to address individual needs of vulnerable pupils and others requiring extra support.
- On timetabled PE days, pupils are asked to come into school in their PE kits, with blue fleeces / jumpers and tracksuit bottoms encouraged for winter.
- Pupils and staff will continue to work in their bubbles, in keeping with the DfE guidance on social distancing in schools.
- Provision remains in place to enable parents / carers with children in more than one year group to drop off and collect will use the stagger times of the oldest child. Please use this as we need to avoid adults and children congregating on the playground.
- We ask that Children are not allowed to return to the building once they are handed over to their parents /carers.
- Please keep to the times allocated and observe the one adult at drop off / pick up.
- Please keep younger children **closely** supervised at all times and minimise the time waiting in the playground as much as possible. Scooters and bikes should not be ridden on the playground.

If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19 at any time, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days, applying the following household measures:

- The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- Household members should not go to work, school, nursery or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.
- Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- If your child has symptoms, try and keep them as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important that they stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you share a household.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- and/or
 - a new continuous cough
 - high temperature
 - a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. We will share with you any new information we receive as soon as get any. The teaching staff are really looking forward to seeing all the children back in school for what will hopefully be as normal a term as possible.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Jeffrey (Headteacher)