



Rushwick C.E Primary School
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 Rushwick
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Thursday 14th January 2021

Dear Parents / carers,

Firstly I would like to thank you for your continued support and kind messages in this very challenging time. We truly appreciate how difficult school being closed is for everyone and that the current lockdown is causing a good deal of angst and worry. All the staff miss seeing the children who are not here and can't wait to get things back to normal as soon as possible.

On the school website you will find updates to our school risk assessment, which also incorporates new guidance from DfE and Public Health. One action arising from this is that from next week (from Monday 18th January), we will be operating a rota system for school staff. This means the teaching staff will be alternating. This will not impact majorly on our provision for vulnerable pupils or key worker provision, although it will mean the children will be provided by different teams of staff on a fortnightly basis and the groups in which are working will be larger than this week.

Remote Learning

Outside of keeping everyone safe, Remote Learning is the number one priority for the school during the lockdown period. The remote learning policy is on the school website.

Thank you to all of you who have responded to the request for support in engaging with our remote learning offer. If you haven't yet done so, please reply to office@rushwick.worcs.sch.uk using the sentence template below:

"I, the parent/carer, and my/our child, _____, agree to support my child in engaging with the Remote Learning Home School Offer."

Vulnerable Pupil and Key Worker Provision

Because of the suddenness of the decision by the government to close schools, it was difficult to gauge the demand for places in school. The demand has been high, with a quarter of the normal school population in every day (around 50 children spread across the seven age groups).

I am fully aware from the remote learning feedback that many families have kept their children at home even though the government guidelines indicate that they are eligible to send their children in. I would like to thank all families who have done this in order to relieve the pressure on school staff. Up until the end of this week we have continued to operate in the existing team bubbles, i.e. with the full team of teaching staff in the building, as well as non-classroom based support staff on top of this.

The renewed national advice is that the single most important action we can all take is to **stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives**. As we are all being told by the government scientific advisors to **act as if we have Covid**, in the context of Rushwick School the more children and staff who are able to work safely from home the better. Therefore, next week the staff at Rushwick will be working in school on a fortnightly rota, with the class teachers being able to totally focus on home learning on a fortnightly basis without juggling having to keep themselves and children safe in school while at the same time delivering quality to remote learning for all.

From next week the school bubbles will operate as follows:

- Key Stage 1 Bubble: Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 inclusively: In two groups with teams of 4 to 5 teaching staff).
- Year 3/4 Bubble: Working together as one group, with two teachers and two TAs alternating.
- Year 5/6: Working together as one group, with two teachers alternating with 1 TA supporting every other week.
- The school office will only be open in the mornings but emails and telephone messages will be checked regularly.

Thank you once again for all your continued support.

We will get through this together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Jeffrey', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Geoff Jeffrey (Headteacher)