



Rushwick C.E Primary School
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Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy month and the second week in school for our delightful new Reception cohort, I cannot stress too much how impressed the staff are with how well the children have settled and how focused they have been in the classrooms. The children's behaviour and attitude towards school life is has always been very good, but this year it has been exceptional.

Our attendance figures are now well above the national and county average, consistently around 95%, and the positivity of the children towards being back in school fulltime has been so inspiring to us all. In the build up to the return of schools, much was discussed about children adapting to the new situations we find ourselves in and how some have managed a long period without being at school. We are finding that children are some of the most adaptable and resilient people in our community as they do not have pre conceived experiences that many of us as adults do. All credit to your children in how they have returned to school – you should be very proud of them!

Thank you also for your fantastic support and understanding in these surreal times, particularly in the way you are going out of your way to help us maintain the measures required to keep everyone safe. The staggered starts and finishes are working more smoothly and we are very grateful for the vast majority for respecting the timings and one way system in and out of the playground. Following this week's government announcements, it does look like the school's opening measures are likely to remain in place into 2021, including to early afternoon finish on a Friday, with Little Stars remaining open for families with an acute need. Our full risk assessment is available on the school website.

Adhering to our risk assessment measure will be even more important as the weather turns more unsettled. We are leaving internal and external doors and windows open as much as possible so it is important that the children are dressed warmly with fleeces or cardigans, as well as a suitable coats and footwear.

Very few of our families do not have relatives within the 'increased risk' categories, and with this in mind, I can promise you that the school will continue to diligently apply measures supporting the two metre social distancing rules in and around school, as well as seek advice from the local authority to adapt to the changing circumstances. The staggered starts, separate entrances and exits are certainly helping us to avoid congestion in and around the school building, playground, paths and gates. Thank you also to those of you who are able to leave your cars at home or at a safe distance from the roads outside the school.

NHS Track and Trace

We do have colds sweeping through school at the moment and many parents are finding it difficult to differentiate symptoms. To help with this I urge you to read the important letter to parents on

our website from the **NHS Test and Trace Team**. You will find this along with other useful information including the single sheet documents '**Covid-19 Advice**' and '**School Illness Flow Chart**'.

Celebrating Harvest and Class Assemblies

By now in school some of the children would be busy practicing their Harvest Assembly which we usually invite parents of a year group to join us for, as well as thinking about which charities we wish to donate goods to. Sadly, once again the pandemic has put a stop to both of these things as we are unable to take in and deliver donations and there are restrictions in place regarding groups larger than 15 singing together. We have come to the difficult conclusion that this year each bubble will discuss and celebrate harvest within their classes in their own way. We are however in the process of creating a plan to ensure we still go ahead with some adapted celebrations later this term. We are planning to allow children to attend school in non-uniform on the last day of this half term (Thursday 22nd October).

Parents Consultations

This term's parents' consultation week will be taking place from Monday 19th October. We are planning to hold these after school from 3.30pm to 6pm on consecutive days, with each day reserved for one discrete Year group. Friday 23rd October is a teacher training day and has been reserved to enable consultations to take place via zoom or telephone for parents / carers who are either shielding and unable to attend school in person. We will be sending out further details in the next two weeks. There will be strictly one consultation per child, unless there are legal reasons for this not to be appropriate.

Yours sincerely

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

Geoff Jeffrey (Headteacher)