



Rushwick C.E Primary School
 Upper Wick Lane
 Rushwick
 Worcester WR2 5SU
 Tel: (01905) 422502
 E-mail: office@rushwick.worcs.sch.uk

Wednesday 21st October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half term of the new school year, I would like to again pay tribute to the whole community for working so closely together with such empathy, flexibility and commitment in making sure every child at Rushwick has every opportunity to flourish back in school despite all the challenges we are facing. There is a lot of information in this newsletter and we ask that it is read by everyone in the family who shares a responsibility for caring for your children.

Your commitment to making sure the children get the best possible schooling is demonstrated by this term's remarkable attendance figures. Nationally, in any normal year a figure above 95% is always considered good. At Rushwick School this half term the year group attendance breaks down as follows:

- Reception: 99%
- Year 1: 97%
- Year 2: 96%
- Year 3: 96%
- Year 4: 97%
- Year 5: 99%
- Year 6: 98%

Furthermore, on Tuesday morning this week every pupil was actually present in every single year group! This is remarkable considering the circumstances. I am in the fortunate position to be able to witness the learning and care taking place on a daily basis throughout the day, including all the outstanding behaviour being shown by the children in and around the school. All this demonstrates how well we have worked together as a school community to help get the children back on track with their learning and mental wellbeing. Parents are the children's first and most important teachers so thank you for all you do, especially with all that home learning back in the spring and summer!

We have really missed having parents in school, so here is a marvellous video put together by Miss Foy giving you all a flavour of what the children have been doing as part of our recovery curriculum throughout September: [Recovery.mp4](#)

There are many challenges ahead of us but I can reassure you that all the staff and governors are fully united in keeping the children and adults as safe as possible as well as making sure they all have fun and can keep on learning whatever circumstances we face over the coming winter.

Rushwick School Covid19 Risk Assessment Update

In August, the school's Covid19 Risk Assessment for full school opening from September was scrutinised and approved by the local authority. It was a carefully put together plan and involved a

lot of work and collaboration well into the summer holidays and beyond. The senior leadership team have now reviewed this document and highlighted in red the incremental changes made since September. This reviewed document, shared with and approved by governors, can be viewed on the school website.

Everyone is fully aware of the current uncertainty in the country around the Covid19 pandemic and it is reasonable to assume the situation will remain challenging for us all well into the Spring Term. The government position is still that primary schools will remain open even if or when measures need to become stricter. We hope you feel that the staff and governors have managed things proportionately at Rushwick, but I have to tell you that there have already been some challenging days for all the staff and keeping things operational has not been without a good deal of anxiety for all concerned. With all this in mind, in order to keep the school coping capacity as robust as possible, the following will remain in operation until the Spring Term half term of 2021, at least:

- School will aim to continue to make sure that we can sustainably operate full time provision for every year group, providing as broad and balanced curriculum as possible, using the established staggered start and finishing times, with remote learning in place if and when a bubble needs to be closed (please refer to the Remote Learning Policy on the school website).
- From immediately after the Autumn Half Term, all parents and carers are now asked to wear a face covering **everywhere** on the school grounds or in the building.
- Please also remember to adhere strictly to the staggered times and avoid remaining on the school site once you have collected your children.
- Observe a social distance at all times within the school grounds, including when approaching teaching staff, and please do not allow younger children to leave your supervision. I am on the playground everyday so please do approach me if you need to speak urgently with any of the teaching staff.
- On Fridays, the normal school day for pupils at Rushwick School will continue to finish after the children have eaten their lunch up to the Spring Half Term at least.
- We can promise you that every year class will continue to have weekly timetabled teaching hours *at least* in-line with the pre-lockdown in March 2020, despite the school needing to finish early on Fridays for most pupils. This has been a key policy for our school and has been instrumental in enabling us to dramatically limit normal seasonal sickness, reduce the likelihood of bubble closures and maintain excellent behaviour and individual care during all the staggered play and lunch times.
- Please remember that limited child care is available on Friday afternoons for those with an acute need. Contact the school office to enquire.
- We are using all available teaching assistant hours to support the children in their bubbles and to ensure the pupil-adult ratios are as small as possible.
- Some support staff hours are being increased to help address the individual needs of vulnerable pupils and others requiring extra support.
- Friday afternoons and some after school days will continue to be used for some targeted catch-up teaching for KS2 pupils.
- Wrap around care, via 'Little Stars' remains in place for families that need to access it, from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, term time only.
- Lunchtimes will continue to be half hour long, followed afterwards by teacher led enrichment play opportunities aimed at boosting physical and mental health.
- All the children will continue to be in the care of their own year group bubble staff throughout the day, with our lunchtime supervisors assisting with extra cleaning and supporting the younger pupils with lunches.
- On timetabled PE days, pupils are asked to come into school in their PE kits, with blue fleeces / jumpers and tracksuit bottoms encouraged as the weather gets colder.

- Pupils and staff will continue to work in their bubbles, mostly as year groups, but also sometimes in larger bubbles in keeping with the DfE guidance on social distancing in schools. Members of the teaching staff will occasionally be visiting each other's classes, following appropriate social distancing procedures, for the purpose of monitoring teaching and learning.
- 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.
- We are looking at ways to re-introduce hot meals after half term in some capacity.

Stars of the Week

Year R: The whole class! **Year 1:** Florence, Freddie F, **Year 2:** Edward, Tia, **Year 3:** Emily B, Caleb, **Year 4:** Henry S, Sophie B, **Year 5:** Olive, Lottie C, **Year 6:** Yasmin, Daniel G, **Little Stars:** Amari, Olive, **Pen Licence:** Anabelle F.

Congratulations, we are very proud of you all!

Reading over half term

We have updated our Oxford Owl subscription. We now have 550 titles on our virtual book shelf that pupils can access via their Oxford owl login. We have also subscribed to the Phonics Book libraries, which contains special phonic books ranges, for example- 'Little blenders' and 'Hero Academy'. These books allow you to practice sound blending whilst reading and let you know which sounds, they cover in the book description section. The sounds are all audio files, so you know how they should sound when blended together. If you are unsure of your child's Oxford Owl login then please get in touch with the school and we can make sure you have it for use over the half term break.

Non Uniform Day

Thursday is the last day of this half term and for a £2.00 voluntary contribution (in a sealed envelope) towards PTA funds the children can attend in non-uniform but we ask that they do not bring in any toys or items to accompany what they are wearing. We look forward to seeing all the children back safely on Monday 2nd November.

As usual, please speak to us if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Jeffrey (Headteacher)