



Plans for potential school closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst Public Health England are still advising all schools to remain open, we are trying to pre-empt and prepare for any sudden updates or closures. Our teachers at Rackham have been working around the clock and over the weekend to ensure that quality teaching and learning is in place for all eventualities. Mrs. Ward, who is responsible for Teaching, Learning and Curriculum at Rackham has written to all parents today explaining the preparation measures that have been made to ensure learning can continue in the event of a school closure. This letter will be sent home today with an exercise book and all necessary login codes for your child.

Key considerations

Parent responsibilities during remote learning

Provide support for your children by:

- establishing routines and expectations
- defining a space for your child to work in
- monitoring communications from teachers
- beginning and ending each day with a check-in
- taking an active role in helping your children process their learning
- encouraging physical activity and/or exercise
- checking in with your child regularly to help them manage stress
- monitoring how much time your child is spending online
- keeping your children social but setting rules around their social media interactions.
- seeking out and communicating with school staff as different needs arise

Establishing routines and expectations

Mrs. Ward has provided your child with a suggested timetable for their learning. This will include regular breaks for activity, eating and drinking. In the activity breaks, it is important that students get up and move around. From the first day you will need to establish routines and expectations. Please use the timetable provided by school to set regular hours for schoolwork. Keep normal bedtime routines and try to maintain the usual routine for any older siblings who live in the same house.

It is important that you set these expectations as soon as distance learning is implemented, not several days later after it becomes apparent a child is struggling with the absence of routine.

Setting up a learning environment

Try to create a quiet and comfortable learning space. Your child may have a regular place for doing homework under normal circumstances, but this space may not be suitable for working in for an extended period of time.

A space/location for extended learning should be a public/family space, not in a bedroom. It should be a place that can be quiet at times and have a strong wireless internet signal, if possible. Above all, it should be a space where you or another adult is present and monitoring your children's learning.

Wellbeing

Being confined to home for an extended period of time can cause stress and conflict. Tips for looking after your children during isolation include:

- Talking to your whole family about what is happening. Understanding the situation will reduce their anxiety.
- Help your children to think about how they have coped with difficult situations in the past and reassure them that they will cope with this situation too. Remind them that the isolation won't last for long.
- Exercise regularly. Options could include exercise DVDs, dancing, floor exercises, yoga, walking around the garden or using home exercise equipment, such as a stationary bicycle, if you have it. Exercise is a proven treatment for stress and depression.
- Encourage your children to keep in touch with family members and friends via telephone, email or social media (where appropriate).

Whilst undoubtedly premature, we hope that our preparation and planning will ensure a smooth transition should the need arise for pupils to learn from home

It is important to note that whilst this is an unusual time for us all, we at Rackham know how very lucky we are to have such a supportive parent community. To ensure key learning time in your child's education is not lost due to these unforeseen circumstances, a combined team effort of parents and teachers is required. It is therefore imperative that you support your child to complete the tasks set by their teachers so that they are not at a disadvantage upon return to school. Mrs. Ward's letter explains more about how you will be able to access this learning, should it be necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff at Rackham for the amazing efforts they are making to ensure calm continuity within school. I feel satisfied that we have prepared as much as we can for any eventuality moving forward and this is thanks to the hard work and efforts of our staff.

A special thank you to Mrs. Ward for coordinating the continuity plan for Teaching Learning and Curriculum, to Miss Wakefield for ensuring our digital platforms are up and ready to go and to our office staff for helping with the enormously increased administrative workload.

Lastly, thank you to all the parents and carers for your unwavering support at this challenging time. It is heartening to hear the many offers of help and assistance in and around our community.

Hopefully our additional preparatory measures for home learning will be proven unnecessary, but at Rackham we like to prepare for the worst and would far rather be considered over-cautious than unprepared.

Kind Regards,

