



Monday 21st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing with an update about Rackham's start to the new academic year and our current Covid response procedures.

I am immensely proud of all staff and pupils for responding so well to our new routines and systems and for the manner in which they have returned to school full of enthusiasm and determination. Our entrance gate has been such a happy place and it has been a real joy for everyone to witness our pupils arrive for school each day. Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past two weeks.

We have been very fortunate and have not yet learned of any positive cases of Covid at Rackham. However, as the cases of Covid continue to climb nationally, it is more important than ever to maintain social distancing before and after school to protect our community.

Thanks to the diligence and cooperation of our parent community, our staggered arrival and drop off times seem to be working well so far. However, we are mindful that from today our Reception pupils will be leaving from the Arch doorway opposite the hall and so there will be considerably less space outside at collection times. We will monitor this closely and we may need to split our staggered timings further if distancing cannot be adhered to outside the school gate. We need your support to ensure our current level of safety is maintained and ask that you please:-

- Stick to your allocated time every day and note that without prior arrangement with the school office, children will not be able to arrive at school or leave school at a time that differs to their allocated slot.
- Wait in your car or outside of the school gate until it is your child's class arrival/pick up time.
- Wear a face covering / face visor when visiting or entering the school premises (unless you are exempt).
- Only one adult to enter the school site for drop off and pick up.
- Maintain social distancing - that's keeping a 2m distance from you and other people.
- Arrive and leave promptly when dropping off / collecting your child – please do not congregate for a chat.
- Limit social interactions with other people and remember the 'rule of six' meaning it's now illegal to socialise in groups of more than six. Should we have a positive case of Covid at Rackham, we will work hard with the health protection team to ascertain which children have been in close contact with the virus. If pupils are mixing outside of school, the track and trace system will not work effectively and our pupils at Rackham will not be as safe as they could be.
- If you are waiting for a test, the whole household needs to isolate and should NOT be entering the school site.
- Ensure your household adheres to self-isolation rules – if your child tests positive, they need to self isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and other household members need to self isolate for 14 days. If you've been in close contact with someone that has tested positive, you need to self isolate for 14 days.

During the lockdown period, over 3,360 remote lessons were set by staff, along with videos and regular zoom meetings. Pupils received online learning opportunities for all subjects maintaining access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Over 220 individual responses to our feedback questionnaire were

received during the summer term, and they were overwhelmingly positive. This has helped motivate staff and has been useful when planning for potential future school closure, or the need to isolate individuals or whole cohorts.

Please find below some further updates about Rackham’s current Covid response, including information about our planned response in the event of a full or partial school closure.

Curriculum Coverage	Our Curious Curriculum is in action now more than ever and we will continue to deliver a full and broad creative curriculum for our pupils. Teachers are gathering an understanding of where individual pupils’ learning is and where there are gaps in student knowledge. We will continue to follow our assessment calendar which is designed to use effective formative strategies to support learning in all areas of the curriculum.
Learning in periods of isolation	In the case of individual student isolation, online learning will be provided via Tapestry for our Reception children and the Seesaw app for all other year groups. The school office will send parents the necessary links and resources for a two week block of work which pupils should complete at home if they feel able and well enough to work.
Remote learning in the future	All pupils have access to our remote learning platforms and are using them for homelearning presently. In the case of a partial/full closure, pupils will be set daily lessons as per our protocol during the recent lock down. Our remote learning policy is in the process of being approved by the school governors and will be shared on our school website shortly.
School Lunches	We have currently deployed some kitchen staff to supervise children during our staggered lunch times so we are not able to serve hot food at this time. We endeavour to begin serving hot meals again as soon as we can, and will review this regularly. In the meantime, we continue to serve school packed lunches to pupils who request them via MCAS.
Tutoring	Please note that schools have not yet received any guidance (or funding) from the DfE regarding catch up programmes for pupils. If we were to offer any information about a catch up programme at this time, it would be purely speculation. We have registered an interest with the Local Authority recommended tutoring services and like all other schools, await further information.
Parent Consultation Evenings	We intend to hold our Parent Consultation Evenings virtually via zoom during the week beginning 2 nd November. When parents are unable to use zoom, the consultations will be via telephone. Further information will be sent in due course.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of a full time crossing patrol. Mrs. Owen started with us this morning and she is very much looking forward to getting to know our families and helping to keep them safe.

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. Staff and Governors at Rackham are hugely grateful to our parent community for being vigilant with the necessary procedures and working together to keep our school safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs B Harrison
Headteacher

