



Email Message dated: 23.04.2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Coronavirus Protective Measures:**

Despite significant changes recently to national guidance, we welcome the Department of Education's decision to maintain consistency with all guidelines and a reminder that all protective measures remain in place from last term. The Local Authority continue to work closely with all schools, and we have been instructed not to change anything on our Risk Assessments yet. Headteachers will be meeting with the Local Authority on the 6th May to discuss guidance, advice and Covid data with a view to the next stage on the government road map and any appropriate changes will be communicated with you thereafter.

Please note that all Schools in our locality continue to work closely with one another and headteachers within WASP (the Witchford Area School's Partnership) meet regularly to discuss our schools. We are aware that some parents are confused by the lack of consistency between local schools and so would like to reiterate to parents that all schools are unique and there will inevitably be genuine (often logistical) reasons for irregularities of approach in the operational running of each school. All schools within the WASP cluster are very aware of the similarities and differences between our schools and headteachers support each other in our efforts to keep school communities safe.

We are currently making plans for a return to regular lunchboxes in school and we will communicate more about this with you in due course. It is important to note that the use of paper bags for packed lunches serves more than one purpose at Rackham because it enables us to ensure speedy entrance and exit from the school hall at lunchtimes. Keeping our bubbles entirely separate during lunchtimes in both the hall and the playground requires careful planning on our part and there are several logistical decisions that need to be made regarding the direction of travel in and out of the hall and the necessity to return to classrooms after the children have eaten.

**Big Ask:**

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched 'The Big Ask'. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that we can put children at the heart of our country's recovery from the Covid-19 outbreak. We would be grateful if you would click on the first link below and encourage your child to fill in the survey. Parents and carers are also welcome to comment on the future for their children by clicking on the second link.

Children: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

Adults: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/adults/>

**Parent Consultations:**

Thank you to all those parents who have signed up for our upcoming parent consultations. The partnership between pupil's parents and teachers is a major driving factor for both pupil progress and happiness in school and cannot be underestimated. If you have not yet arranged an appointment, I encourage you to do so. Staff are always flexible and will go out of their way to speak to parents outside of the allocated sessions, but we would prefer for all appointments to happen in the week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### **London Marathon Sponsorship:**

One of our parents, Alistair McKenzie, is fundraising for the school by running the London Marathon and would be very grateful for your support. Any donations, big or small, can be made by going to Alistair's JustGiving page by clicking here:

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alistair-mckenzie?utm\\_source=Sharethis&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=alistair-mckenzie&utm\\_campaign=pfp-email&utm\\_term=ecc02bbbc1b84185830fd1454405221c](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alistair-mckenzie?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=alistair-mckenzie&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=ecc02bbbc1b84185830fd1454405221c).

We are so delighted that Alistair has chosen to raise money for our school in this way and would like to promote his efforts far and wide. Please share the JustGiving page with any friends or family who might be interested in supporting our school. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Friends of Witchford Rackham. Huge thanks to Alistair for thinking of us, and the very best of luck to him for his marathon efforts!

Some of you may remember that I had booked a skydive for July last year to raise money for Rackham. Unfortunately, this could not go ahead due to Covid restrictions, but I have now heard from the centre and will be rebooking this event for either this summer, or early next academic year.

I would like again to thank our parent community for your continued diligence, patience, and kindness as we take steps together to safely return to a more 'normal' school day.

I wish all our families a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs B Harrison  
Headteacher

