

Friday 17th April

As we draw to the end of the school Easter Holidays, I would like to offer a huge thank you to several key staff members who have been working daily from home over the holiday period. Our job has changed beyond all recognition but the team at Rackham have adapted brilliantly with key staff members going above and beyond on a daily basis. I see and hear in the media that more people have time on their hands now than ever before, but I can assure you that for key staff at Rackham, it is quite the opposite. I am truly grateful for all their efforts. I would also like to thank All4Sports who came into school to keep those children with key worker parents entertained during this period. Their help and support meant that I did not need to ask any staff to go into school during their well-earned holidays. Where other external agencies became unavailable, All4Sports continued to offer truly heroic efforts to support both the staff and pupils at Rackham. We will always remember how helpful they have been.

I am sure you will all be aware of the recent announcement that lockdown restrictions in the UK will continue for "at least" another three weeks as it tackles the coronavirus outbreak. Despite the speculation in the media about when, why and how schools might reopen, we have had no official notification or guidance on such a move. When we do, parents and carers can be assured that we will contact you directly via email. I am working with the local authority and governors to plan as best we can for the eventual reopening of school but as I am sure you can all imagine, the uncertainty about everything means this task is rather difficult at present. Currently, we have a very limited number of staff able to work in school but thankfully our pupil numbers are low enough to allow for these staff to work on a rota basis. Comparatively, our workforce remains as strong as ever for staff working from home.

On Monday 20th April, teachers will resume the management of their class's online learning between the hours of 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday. The school building will re-open for the small number of children of key workers who are unable to find alternative childcare, operating between the hours of 08:45 and 15:15. Please note, children may not turn up at school unannounced as we have to plan the staff that will be asked to come into school to run this provision.

As we all adjust to our new way of working and learning, there will be things that go well and things that don't. There will be anxiety, worries, tantrums and the occasional meltdown. Please try to remember that this is normal. We have added a Coronavirus section to our school website under the 'Parents' drop down menu. Recently we have posted a list of useful links for supporting mental health of both adults and children. Please do find some time to take a look at these, particularly if you feel like you are struggling.

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Home learning activities will begin next week and all plans and resources can be found [here](#).

Please take the time to look at the Home Learning section of the website (found in Year Groups from the 'Children' drop down menu) for the accompanying resources.

On Monday I will restart the daily story sessions and collective worship sessions which will be shared on the 'Headteacher Harrison' Youtube channel and our teachers will continue to share resources and videos via Seesaw. Mrs Ward will also continue to upload three PWP lessons a week for KS2 (and any interested KS1 children) onto the Rackham C. of E. Primary Youtube channel.

Whilst we have no timescale for how long school closures are likely to last, we are constantly trying to refine our practice to ensure that our work is accessible, manageable and interesting. Simultaneously, we continue to plan for the future, to ensure that as a school community, we emerge from this strongly and are ready to take on the future with the passion, enthusiasm and sense of community which truly characterises our school.

There will be an end to this – and I sense from all of the pupil, staff and parental messages, that when that end comes, we will be able to look back at our collective actions with pride and discover a redoubled determination to make the most of all of the opportunities that a great education affords.

Thank you, as always for your positive support of Rackham School. We couldn't be more proud to be part of this community.

