



1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for your continued cooperation and support during what has been a very challenging time for us all. We very much look forward to welcoming all children back to school full time on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. I appreciate that for many families, the wider reopening of schools has caused considerable concern, but please be assured, wider reopening does not mean a return to 'normal'. We will continue to remain vigilant and maintain the safety protocols we have developed since September.

With recorded incidents of Covid-19 in the community well below national figures, we are confident the chance of infection is falling, however this is not the time to take unnecessary risks. The Government has published a detailed 'road map' outlining the country's route out of Covid-19 restrictions, but the emphasis upon social distancing, minimal social contact between households and essential travel only, remains clear.

Our Covid-19 Risk Assessment has not been diluted in anyway and it is very much our intention to continue implementing strong safeguarding measures to reduce the risk of infection in and around the school. In essence arrangements in place before Christmas will now be re-established. However, I would be very grateful if you could spend some time reading the following information to ensure your own safety and that of others in the community.

### **COVID-19 Protocols**

The following guidance is in line with Government requirements for school opening on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021:

- Our enhanced school cleaning programme will continue to operate. This will include the cleaning of resources.
- Routines will continue to be in place for regular handwashing throughout the day.
- There will be no After School Clubs before Easter. We anticipate Active Play Education will begin after school clubs in the summer term.

In terms of testing and the wearing of face masks, the situation for Rackham as a school with primary age pupils remains as it was before Christmas. Primary age pupils are not expected to wear a mask and pupils will not be tested in school or be asked to be tested at home. Staff will continue to undertake twice weekly testing. Should a positive test be received for a pupil or teacher then the bubble will be required to self-isolate.

### **Symptoms of COVID-19**

It is absolutely vital that if you, your child or someone in your household has any of the following symptoms you must stay at home.

- A high temperature;
- A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste;
- A new continuous cough.

**You must inform us immediately and organise a test.**

## Drop Off and Collection Arrangements

It is crucial that drop off and collection times are managed carefully and our risk assessment identifies these times of the day as being critical. We understand that for many families, drop off and collection is important for social interactions with other families, but it is vital that we do not relax the necessary rules or jeopardise all of the hard work everyone has put in over the last year.

- Children in Years 5 and 6 are able to walk home alone but please let us know if this is your preference.
- Parents should stay away from the school building and will be asked to stay as far away as possible from the red gates, to avoid unnecessary congestion and to maintain distancing.
- Parents and carers must continue to socially distance from each other when on the school site, including the area outside of main school gate.
- Parents and carers must continue to wear face coverings before entering the school site.
- Only one parent or carer must drop off/collect their child. Please do not arrive to school with any other adults.
- Parents and carers must not gather at school entrances/exits or in the local streets after collecting/dropping off children.
- Children should go straight to their parent and then the child and parent should leave the premises immediately.

Please keep to the times stated below and avoid coming on to the school site early. We request you do not stop to chat to other parents as we need to keep the staggered drop of times running smoothly and to time. Those families who use childminders will need to ensure they use the same allocated time that the childminder uses even on days where they are not using them.

First initial of surname	Drop off time	Pick up time
A - D	8.30am	2.45pm
E - J	8.45am	3.00pm
K - P	9.00am	3.15pm
R - W	9.15am	3.30pm

## Attendance

All primary school children are required by the Government to be in school full-time from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## Breakfast Club

If you would like to access Breakfast Club, please contact the school office in the first instance. Children of Key Workers and vulnerable children, including those who have accessed Breakfast Club since January 2021, will be prioritised if space is limited. This will be reviewed when further information from the Government becomes available. We will again gauge interest for our After School Club before the summer term and will open it if there is enough demand.

## Communication

We value contact from you and know that communication is vital for us all to feel your children are happy, safe and well. However we need to reduce face-to-face contact between you and our staff. Please continue to use the office email, phone, and teacher email to communicate with us and we assure you that if we have any concerns regarding your child we will contact you immediately. Please avoid using the school office in person. Meetings with staff via telephone or zoom can be arranged by appointment if necessary.

## Uniform

We understand that families will not appreciate the additional stress of trying to access uniform for children who have outgrown them, and we are happy for our uniform policy to be relaxed for the remainder of the Spring term. Children should wear uniform where possible, but we will not cause any difficulty for families where this is not possible.

## What does your child need to bring to school with them?

Children need to bring a **coat** (weather appropriate), a **water bottle** (which will need to be taken home to wash each night) and those bringing their own lunch need to bring their **lunch in a disposable bag**. We appreciate that disposable bags are not ideal, but logistically, they offer many benefits including ensuring all our bubbles remain isolated from one another during lunch times and reducing the chance of virus transmission.

Children must attend school wearing their **PE kits on the days they have PE**. Year teams will update you with information about these days on their weekly newsletters which will commence again this Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Ash, Larch, Beech and Chestnut class will all still receive their **free fruit snack** each day. Children in other classes are asked to bring their own healthy snack for breaktimes, if they wish.

## Remote Learning

- Remote learning from 8<sup>th</sup> March will be very different. This is because all children are expected to attend school full-time, and all staff in school will be face-to-face teaching.
- Remote learning will only be provided for children who are absent from school with Covid-19 symptoms, who have had a positive Covid-19 test, or who are required to isolate.
- Children who are absent from school due to these reasons will be provided with a school owned device (if required) to access their remote learning.
- A teacher from your child's year group will make contact with you and your child as soon as possible, so that the remote learning tasks can be discussed, and any help that your child might need with their learning can be provided.
- A teacher from your child's year group will make regular contact with you and your child for the duration of their Covid-19 related absence.
- All Remote learning is expected to be completed. Your child's remote learning will be marked and feedback will be provided via Seesaw/Tapestry. Remote learning will no longer be available on the school website from 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## What if my child becomes ill at school?

- We require the names and telephone numbers of at least two emergency contacts. Please check MCAS to ensure your contact details are up to date.
- If your child shows any signs of illness we will call you and you must collect your child immediately.
- If your child shows any symptoms of the virus, they will be placed in supervised isolation whilst they wait for you to arrive.
- Symptomatic children must be tested. If the test is negative, and the child no longer has symptoms, the child can return to school.
- Where there is a confirmed case within a Bubble, the children and staff within that Bubble will be sent home to isolate. The other household members will not need to self-isolate unless their child displays symptoms and subsequently tests positive.

## **NHS Test and Trace**

Along with staff members, parents and carers need to be ready and willing to engage with Test and Trace procedures. Parents, carers and children need to:

- Book a test if they are displaying symptoms.
- Must not come onto the school premises if they have symptoms: a persistent cough, a high temperature and/or a loss of taste and smell.
- Be prepared to self-isolate if they have any symptoms.
- Provide details of anyone who they have been in close contact with if they test positive, or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops Covid-19 symptoms or someone who tests positive.
- Parents need to inform school immediately of any results of a test.

## **Testing for Households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils**

With testing available for secondary school pupils, and primary and secondary school staff via school, the Government has offered household testing for families whose children access education or childcare. Details of this initiative can be found [here](#).

From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees.
- at a local test site.
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site.
- by ordering a home test kit online.

### Get a test through your employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

### Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site](#). There are 7 sites across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

### Collect test kits

You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

### Order home test kits online

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. The online service will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

## **Behaviour**

Please refer to our Covid-19 Home School Agreement and our related behaviour policy update appendix in light of current circumstances. These documents are available on our school website. Please note that we will not tolerate the behaviour of any child who puts the safety of another child, children or staff at risk.

## **Mrs. Lewin**

I am very sad to inform you that Mrs. Lewin will be leaving us this week. Mrs. Lewin has worked at the school for 7 years and will be remembered fondly for all her hard work supporting our children throughout their time with us. We wish Mrs. Lewin all the best for the future.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school. Staff are committed to ensuring all children feel welcome and secure upon their return – the pupils' wellbeing, learning, welfare and happiness remains our priority.

We still need to adjust the way we would usually do things for a while longer, but I can assure you that school remains a calm, welcoming and familiar environment for children and we will be vigilant in managing and reducing risk as far as we can whilst they are in our care.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and forbearance during this difficult period. I am very aware that the lockdown during the winter months of January and February has placed a great deal of strain on many families. We also understand that there may have been some significant events as a result of the virus for some families. With this in mind, can I ask that you contact the school so that we may be mindful of this in our work with your children.

Thank you for your support with these measures. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mrs B Harrison  
Headteacher

