



26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems hard to believe that we are into the final few weeks of a very long and difficult term for everybody. The extremely challenging times in early January have certainly moved forward, and we're starting to enjoy some spring weather which lifts everyone's spirit. I would like to offer our collective thanks once again for the support you have given to your children, the staff and the school over recent months. The Spring term is always the shortest term of the year but I'm sure that because we have only relatively recently been open to all pupils, it will feel as though the term has only just begun for many families.

As anticipated, we haven't noticed any long-term, worrying changes in the children who have missed some time in school although we realise it is still early days and will be monitoring our pupils sensitively to ensure any gaps are identified. On the whole, our pupils are as happy as they were before Christmas and this makes me feel positive about the rest of the school year. Thankfully, these weeks before Easter have given children the chance to reconnect with friends and staff and to get back into a school routine. Now that this re-introduction is over, we will turn our attention to instilling focus and determination. All staff at Rackham are determined to ensure our Summer term is purposeful and productive for everyone so that the children can look back on the year as a whole and know that they did their best under challenging circumstances. Remembering the 5Rs of Rackham and the expectations of the school is a key part of this.

I always feel proud of our staff and pupils when browsing through the tweets from our class accounts to see the high quality, exciting and engaging lessons the children are enjoying. It is so lovely to see photographs of the children having fun and learning with their friends and staff in our beautiful school and I am very grateful to our wonderful staff for taking the time to share their lessons with the community in this way.

You will all be aware that sadly, this week is Mrs. Pederson's last week at Rackham. She enjoyed a lovely day on Wednesday as part of our Year 5/6 VE day celebrations where pupils shared poems, letters, gifts and cards with her. Mrs. Pederson has worked in education for almost 35 years now, and this certainly deserves recognition. Mrs. Pederson is a remarkable teacher, adored by pupils and staff alike and she will be sorely missed at Rackham next term and beyond. On behalf of all pupils, staff and parents both past and present, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Pederson for her dedication to education over the past three decades and wish her the very best for the future and all that it entails.

Willow class will be taught by Mrs. Davey for the Summer term. Mrs. Davey is an experienced teacher who has recently decided to return to the classroom after spending some years at home, bringing up her young family. She has a wealth of experience and is very much looking forward to next term. Mrs. Davey has spent some time in school this week getting to know the class and she has spent time with Mrs. Pederson to ensure a smooth transition. I am sure our parent community will join me in welcoming Mrs. Davey to the Rackham team and feel certain she will thoroughly enjoy working with such enthusiastic and hard working children and staff.

As this week marked the anniversary of the announcement that schools were closing (for the first time), we spent some time reflecting as a school and observed two minutes silence on Wednesday. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Communications team asked some headteachers to comment on what they remember about this time last year and what they had learnt from the last twelve months. In the article I was able to reflect on the past year with immense levels of pride. I am proud of our pupils, their families, and all staff within the profession. The pandemic has shined a light on the importance of a strong school culture and indeed, schools with this positive culture have found themselves a step ahead of their counterparts in keeping spirits high and navigating the crisis.

Undeniably, the pandemic has demonstrated the remarkable resilience of school staff, pupils and our communities. It has proven that schools are capable of pivoting to deliver our lessons remotely and families are capable of altering everything to ensure their children are receiving the best start in life possible, but most of all it has proven that only when all stakeholders work together collectively can we truly excel.

I also reflected on the huge support that we have enjoyed from the parents at the school. You have been so calm, understanding, and appreciative of everything that we have done. I do hope that the Summer term gives us the opportunity to relax restrictions a little but we are unable to predict whether we will be able to have parents in the school or not at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to politely remind parents who use Breakfast Club that for health and safety reasons, they are not permitted to use the school car park when dropping off children for Breakfast Club. Please park outside the school, as you would at any other time in the school day. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to remind our parents that at Rackham, we are committed to honouring our contact-tracing commitments and as such, will be continuing to track and trace for 2 days from Friday 26th March 2021.

The table below summarises our responsibilities:

Symptoms began on (or date of positive test if asymptomatic)	Friday 26 th March	Saturday 27 th March	Sunday 28 th March	Between Monday 29 th March to Monday 12 th April
Action Required	Parents inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.	Parents inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact on Thursday 25 th and Friday 26 th March. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.	Parents inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact on Friday 26 th March. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.	Unless testing was delayed following onset of symptoms, case was not in setting. Any home tests need to be reported to NHS Test and Trace. Please report any positive results to the email address below.
I have set up a designated email for parent/carers to contact me in the event of a confirmed or suspected case between the close of school on Friday 26th March and Monday 12th April . The following email address, is to be used exclusively for positive test results and contact tracing purposes only, and no other communications. Covid19results@rackham.cambs.sch.uk				

To ensure these arrangements work effectively and minimise the risk of compromising families' Easter break, please adhere to the following:

- LFD tests that are used by key workers and secondary aged pupils are not suitable for primary aged children. A full PCR test is always required for primary aged children, when symptoms are apparent.
- Parents should seek PCR tests via testing centres rather than via postal tests as this can significantly delay confirmation of results. Results are normally forthcoming in 24 hours via test centres.
- Parents to notify the school if children have symptoms after Friday 26th March (as outlined above) – even when waiting for a test result, we can advise families to take necessary steps whilst awaiting confirmation.
- To minimise the risk of infection within the school (and the wider community) please ensure you continue to adhere to social distancing, frequent hand washing and use of face coverings protocol.

I wish all of our community a very restful and enjoyable Easter, and look forward to welcoming our pupils back again on 12th April for the Summer term.

Kind regards,



Headteacher

