



Tuesday 5th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from the news announced at 8 pm last night, and the DfE guidance that was released at 11 pm, I am now in a better position to share some further information with you.

Firstly – thank you for your continued support. We know that you may have lots of questions and concerns, but our main focus for the next 24 hours is to put into action our plan for transition into remote learning which will enable us to deliver quality learning to all children – be it remotely or in school. Therefore, we ask that you are patient with us. We cannot promise to respond to individual e-mails at this time to answer specific questions, but we will endeavour to have some information for you before the end of today. We will of course, be able to resume individual responses to questions after things have settled down.

Although we anticipated bubbles closing frequently this term and reverting to home learning at some point, we hadn't expected to do so with such little notice. I am sure you will sympathise that whilst our remote learning plan for provision has been prepared in advance, we could not possibly roll it out in its entirety with one evening's notice and as such we have, like many other schools, been left with no option but to remain closed for all pupils today. We are aware that some schools are open for Key Worker and Vulnerable Children today and had we not spent our weekend working hard to ensure we remained open this week when other schools were closing, we would have been better placed to provide this. Rackham Staff will be in school today preparing remote learning, and organising provision for the children of key workers and those classed as vulnerable.

All staff have prepared two days of remote learning plans which will be available this morning via our familiar online learning platforms - Seesaw for Y1 -6 and Tapestry for YR. All Rackham pupils have been using these platforms regularly for homework since September so there should be no issues accessing them, but if any parent needs support, please contact your child's class teacher on their class email accounts. Please note that the video introductions from our class teachers often mention how sorry our they are that 'you are needing to isolate', that is because these videos were recorded in anticipation of that eventuality. Please reassure your children about this if they worry about why teachers are saying that.

I will update you again later today with more details about our remote learning policy and provision and the logistical information for those pupils who will be returning to school. We understand that due to the extreme short notice provided to parents, many will be unable to support children's learning from home today and as such we are placing no expectations on remote learning for today. The learning is there however, should you wish to access it.

We ask that all Key Worker surveys (sent out last night from the Rackham office address) are completed by 11 am today (Tuesday 5th January) to give us enough time to plan for these pupils return on Wednesday 6th January.

We know it is a worrying time for everyone. This is far from an ideal situation, but we are all in this together. We will continue to do everything we can to support all our families, and we are always here for you.

Stay safe everyone,



Headteacher, Rackham (CE) Primary School