

Rose Wood Academy Newsletter

July 2020



A Message from the Head

Well the 2019/20 school year was not quite what we had planned. I do feel that there are some positives to be taken from it all though. It has strengthened my faith in the importance of community and how a school sits at the heart of that. I have been amazed by you all throughout the pandemic. Your support for the school and for the learning we have endeavoured to provide has been simply excellent. It will soon be the summer holidays and both school and home school will break up. You all deserve a break from your home classroom where you have worked so hard. Thank you again for all your work with the children. When the school reopens fully in September I know that the gaps in the children's learning, that the nation is so concerned about, will not be as significant here as it is in many schools and that is down to you and what you have done from home. Whatever the new school year brings, I know that we will face it together.

COVID

These have been very challenging times in so many ways and we would like to again convey our appreciation for the support we have received. In so many ways, this pandemic has meant that we have had to work in a way contrary to our usual approach. I'm hoping that as the year progresses we will be able to move more and more towards our usual model but until then please bear with us as regulations change and we have to adapt accordingly. As it currently stands, we are planning to open to all children in September and 'bubbles' will be year group bubbles, allowing for more interaction whilst still being COVID compliant. We will still have to have staggered pick up and drop off times and parents and staff will still be required to socially distance, in accordance with the most recent government guidelines. We have started to plan in detail for our new September norm but we feel that to send out exact details now would be premature as it could be subject to change. Could we please ask that you check your dojos in the last week of the summer holiday for the most up to date information. This information will include where the entrance will be for your child's year group and their start and end times. I know there will be difficulties when you have siblings in different year groups but if we could ask that everyone does their best to bring children to school at their designated time it will really help us keep the school site as safe as possible for you all.

Staffing

We have some staffing changes to announce as there will be some new faces to greet you when school re-opens in September. Firstly, we have appointed a new School Business Manager – Mrs Readman – who started with us during lockdown, after Mrs Morris moved on to a promoted position working for a Multi-Academy Trust. Mrs Readman has already settled in so well and I know she is looking forward to getting to know more of you and your children when school re-opens fully. Although this next news is exciting for them, we are sad to be saying farewell to Miss Shepherd and Miss Marr. Miss Marr is relocating to Leeds (although we tried to persuade her to commute) and Miss Shepherd is going to teach in Qatar, from where she definitely can't commute! Other exciting news is that Mrs Danks – or Miss Alali as you may know her – is expecting a baby so will be starting her maternity leave in the Autumn term. We therefore have three new teachers who will be starting school in September – Miss Peacock, Miss Stalker and Miss Wilson. All three have already made a great impression and I know they will quickly become part of the Rose Wood school community. One last change! Mr Martin – our caretaker – is retiring in the summer. We have appointed a new caretaker – Mr Shepherd – who will start in the summer and I know he is already keen to put his skills to good use.

Trips

We are aware that due to the pandemic we were unable to offer any summer term trips this year and you had paid a one off trip payment for the whole year. We therefore won't take any trip money in the Autumn term and we will look at what we can offer the children to enrich the curriculum. We are hoping that we will still be able to go on educational visits but with extra precautions and the same regarding visitors in school. We will review the system in the Spring term, when we will opt for a reduced one off payment for the remainder of the year or a payment per trip. We will keep you informed.

Attendance

When we return in September, attendance at school returns to previous COVID expectations, in that children must be at school every day unless they are too ill to attend. I know that is different to how it has been this term but, as I'm sure you'll agree, it is important that children are back to school learning once it's been deemed safe enough. You can hand the reins of teaching back to us and you can all go back to your usual day jobs! We look forward to being back to full classes and school going back to much closer to normal.

School Meals

We will be offering hot school meals again from September. There will be two hot main meal choices as well as the option for sandwiches and salad. In order to be COVID compliant, we will be making some slight adaptations to ensure children from different bubbles don't mix. This will mean it takes longer to get the children through the dinner hall so lunch hours will be staggered to facilitate this. To speed up service, each day's meal choices will be shared with children each morning and children will be given a coloured sticker to match their daily choice. We will share the menus with parents in advance so you can discuss the choices with the children. The kitchen staff will be able to easily see what children have ordered and serve them accordingly. This should hopefully result in a smoother service for all involved.

Transition into New Classes

We will inform you which class teacher your child will have in September on Thursday 16th July. As we have been unable to do our usual transition, we will send a video through Class Dojo from your child's new teacher to welcome your child to their new class. The children return to school **Thursday September 3rd**. The first two days back will be dedicated to reintegration and transition. We will encourage activities to support the children to become familiar with the whole class environment, get time to know and settle in with their new teachers and become familiar with the school's procedures. Those first couple of days will be fun and relaxed for the children to settle them back in.

Wraparound Care

We are planning to provide some wraparound care in the form of breakfast and afterschool club from September. The offer will be more limited than it has been previously as the restrictions prevent us mixing children in school from different year groups. We have some solutions in place but we are also aware that the regulations are subject to change between now and September. We will therefore not be providing wraparound care until the week commencing 14th of September. We will share the details of the offer with you as soon as possible as we appreciate you will need to plan your childcare accordingly.

Reminders

Below we have just included some reminders as I know 'normal' school seems a long time ago.

- If your child is unable to come to school as they are unwell please could you inform Mrs Abrol in the office, rather than just informing your child's teacher through dojo. This is so we can do an accurate register check each morning and ensure that all children are accounted for.
- We sent out information about uniform through the 'school story' page on Class Dojo. If you would like this information again please get in touch with school. We would just ask that you read these carefully as it's much easier to address queries before uniforms have been purchased rather than having to address it afterwards. We never want any child to feel uncomfortable knowing that they aren't in uniform or through it needing addressing. Just a reminder that school shoes must be all black, including sole and any logo and hair accessories should be small and in line with school colours.
- Your child's teacher will share with you which day PE is timetabled. If children could come to school without earrings in on that day that would be much appreciated. If this isn't possible, then earrings must be taped up at home. This is for safety reasons.
- Our communication system is electronic, rather than paper based. We will send out messages through Dojo – on the class or whole school page or via message – or through a text message.
- Whilst COVID guidelines are as they are, we unfortunately are unable to have birthday cakes in school from home. Once we return to normal, please could we ask that cakes are pre-cut and wrapped or are individual cakes. Just a reminder again that we are a nut-free school. This also means that packed lunches must not contain nuts, which includes food like Nutella. Thank you again for your support with this for our children with nut allergies.