



Rigby Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2EP

Tel: 01527 875475 Fax: 01527 870211

Headteacher: Mrs T Smith

www.rigbyhallschool.com

Email – office@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk

Wednesday 4th November 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Autumn term 2, where we hope you are all safe and well as we head towards another lockdown.

We will endeavour, as always, to keep school as safe as is possible for the children and staff, and to ensure that they remain in school as happy, calm and relaxed as we can make them.

We know that our children are feeling anxious at the moment, as are we as adults, particularly as numbers rise and more cases are highlighted 'closer to home'. Please be reassured that I will never put our children or staff at risk and so any decisions made will always be in their best interests. We have been 'lucky' to this point but are well aware that cases may begin to creep into school, and if this happens, we will put our processes into place and act accordingly in line with Public Health England advice, in order to keep everyone safe.

Please can I reiterate that I **NEED to know as soon as possible** if; you or your child are having to self-isolate, you have symptoms or you have had a test. If you have to have a test, your whole household has to self-isolate until a negative result is received. Please **DO NOT** risk sending children in whilst you wait, as you may be asymptomatic and by sending your child in, it then effects a class full of children and their staff. I have re sent the operations booklet again with this letter, with what you need to do in different circumstances.

Contact details for anything COVID related are: **07935 223378** which is my work mobile, and also covid@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk. Please **DO NOT** leave messages on the school answerphone or the office@ account as there may be a delay in us receiving these and the action may need to be immediate in order to keep others safe.

Thank you so much to parents and carers who are wearing masks or visors to drop off or collect their children. This is an extra measure to keep everyone safe. We hand sanitise children into school and have started to do this as they leave now. They do this as they exit their class, but as an extra measure, they will have hand sanitiser on at the gates.

An issue I can foresee as time goes on is staffing levels. We have bubble teams of staff with extra members in the teams to help cover absences of staff and to support where extra help is needed if children are struggling. We are having real difficulties with recruiting some teachers at the moment. We know this is not ideal or consistent for our children but we are doing the very best we can with the resources available and with people who want to work in a school setting at this time.

A few members of staff up to this point have been called to self-isolate at different times, meaning we miss a couple of weeks each time for each member of staff effected. So far, we have managed this safely and effectively within bubbles. We are not sharing staff amongst the school and we are not having daily supply as these members of staff go between several schools within higher tier places.



“Valuing every achievement”



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I have said to staff that I will not have any of the bubbles compromised in terms of health and safety and so some days we may need to disband the timetable for 'activities', in order to safely staff and remain open. I want to reassure you again, this decision will not be taken lightly but the main aim is to keep all bubbles open and to have all children in school, safe and well with minimal disruption to their routines, or to yours if I have to make the decision to close bubbles.

I think you all know me well enough to know that our children are my priority along with my staff and so every decision made is with their health and safety at the very heart.

Free School Meals

During the Christmas holiday, we will be providing our children who are eligible for FSMs with vouchers for the two weeks. We fully appreciate that more of our families may have a change to circumstances as we enter a second lockdown and so if you feel you may now be eligible, please use this link:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals/2 for more information and the ability to apply.

Parents Evening

This will look different this year. As a team, we have decided to give you a 'one page' mini report on your child. You will have a statement about what they have been doing since their return in September in line with the recovery curriculum. You will then have an update on emotional wellbeing and progress. If you read the report and have concerns or issues, you will be able to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time in order to speak with your child's teacher. This appointment will either be a phone call or zoom call, with your child's teacher, and will last no longer than 10 minutes, as per a parent's evening appointment. You may decide that you do not need to make this appointment as the regular communication you receive is enough. I will send out a covering letter with the reports and you can comment on this as acknowledgement that you have received and read it. The reports will be sent the week beginning November 23rd, with appointments able to be made the week beginning November 30th if you wish. These will be arranged directly with your child's teacher.

Uniform

The children will need to be wearing uniform from January 4th 2021. Post 16 do not wear uniform but must be dressed smart. I don't want to give you added pressures around Christmas so wanted to let you know I am still saying uniform to be reinstated from January, so you can prepare and get pieces in beforehand. The details are on our website as to where you can buy from. You do not have to buy tops with logos, as long as the colours are right, I am happy that the children look smart in plain tops.

Website

Ever since we relaunched our new website a couple of years ago, it has never been quite right!! The app is great to have on your phones but with a lot of staff movement, the videos became out of date quite quickly. With all the building works carried out too, photos and videos again became obsolete as we changed what we looked like physically. Today we have had a virtual meeting with the company and providing we are out of lockdown, we are



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booked to have videos and photos redone, (with a generic video that can last!) on the 3rd and 4th December. For these two days, if your child has uniform available, please can they wear it on these days. I **DO NOT** want you to buy uniform specifically, but if you have it, please can they wear it as it will look better on the website. With this in mind, please complete your consent for photos/website/twitter permissions, or request another form, so we have up to date permissions for this work.

Many thanks as always for your invaluable and much appreciated support. We are all in this together and we all appreciate that everyone will have difficulties at some point, so please keep us aware of anything you feel will impact on your child, as we are here to help and support you as always as you help and support us.

Keep safe and well

Tracey



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