



Rigby Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2EP

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Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> marks the ‘re-opening’ of schools across the Country. We are around only 60 pupils off our 100% attendance anyway so we are ready to welcome everyone back on Monday.

Our morning routine of taking children off the transport may take a little longer. We are going to introduce using both gates to help with this steady stream of disembarking. We have already increased staff presence on the gates to cater for this increase in numbers too.

Secondary aged pupils, Year 7 and above, will be tested on the first day they return (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March) then 3 days later on the Thursday and then again on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. At the moment we have not received any information around test kits for Secondary aged pupils to complete at home. When I get this information, I will of course share this with you.

Staff now have test kits for home so will test twice a week until we finish for Easter on Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup>. We are all due our second vaccinations in the holiday, so when we return on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, this will all be completed.

We are going to keep the bubble system in school for as long as we can; just because the 8<sup>th</sup> March is a pointer with schools returning, it is by no means an indicator to pull back on any safety measures we have in place. Children will all remain in their bubbles and will have specific staff. This has been working well and pupils themselves have commented on this system working for them in terms of preferring less people in the play areas and not having to move all round school. We will not be lifting the procedures we have in place in school for the foreseeable.

We still won't be having visitors into school nor having onsite meetings. As you can appreciate, with the big change of coming back together again, I do not want to take any risks that we can manage better by carrying out online meetings.



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Anyone we have in school will only be in if they can be outside (contractors). The School nurse, Speech & Language Therapists, OT and Educational Psychologist can continue to come in. Some of the children are due other routine vaccinations, so this will happen too. I'd prefer to slowly introduce others into our school bubble rather than open the doors wide straight away.

This is another reason for carrying out Parents meetings online too. For your health as much as my staff, I can't have that many people coming face to face with staff and then risking having to close classes if anyone developed symptoms. A measured and graduated response is how I am going to manage the forthcoming weeks.

I have asked that pupils wear uniform again. I asked this from January 4<sup>th</sup> and would like to reiterate the point again as the school comes back together. This is to help with the routine of returning and also to give that sense of school community. I have spoken with individuals around difficulties with this and I am supportive where there is a genuine need to not wear uniform. For everyone else, please encourage your child to wear uniform as this is all part of the life skills we are working on in order to get the pupils ready for the world of work. Those who are in uniform look so smart. Thank you in advance for your support with this, and any issues, please just let me know.

Some of our pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals, have the option to have breakfast when they get to school. For the majority, this is toast. Some of our other children have been asking for this too as their journey here can make them tired and hungry. We would like to offer this option to other families for their children. If you would like your child to have breakfast in school, from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, please pay £1 per week on the ParentPay site, and we will ensure they receive their toast daily.

Tomorrow we say goodbye to one of our Teaching Assistants Pauline. Pauline has been with us a few years and has worked in different areas of the school. You will remember recently that Pauline ran the virtual London marathon and raised money for a canopy in the Forest. We wish Pauline all the very best in her next chapter and thank her very much for being an energetic part of Team Rigby.



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So, to finish, I would like to thank every single one of you who have been home-schooling during this latest lockdown. You have all done remarkably well in a time where we appreciate personal anxieties and situations have been very different.

I am beyond grateful that within this past 12 months, we have all got through and our pupils have received everything they have needed to ensure they remained safe and well. Whether this was education through accessing work from home, or just being at home; safe, calm and well cared for, so they felt comfortable and safe at this time. However, you and your family have got through this past year, you have done it. It's not over yet, but hopefully this is the start of better days to come.

To all my team, you have been truly incredible. Whatever your role, I would like to thank you all too. You have had your personal thank you from me, but feel that on behalf of parents who you have supported and children you have continued to teach and be there for, thank you.

As a school family, we cannot wait to have everyone back together next week.

Take care and keep safe

Tracey



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