Whole School Re-opening – March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the government announcement, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all of the children back to school on Monday 8th March 2021. The government guidance states that attendance is expected by all children unless a child is advised to continue to shield by medical professionals – we will follow government guidelines released for attendance and work with parents to alleviate concerns or worries about the return.

Year groups will be taught as whole classes and organised into bubbles with other year groups as it was pre-lockdown.

* Bubble 1 – Nursery, Reception and Year 1
* Bubble 2 – Year 2, 3, 4
* Bubble 3 – 5, 6

Children in the bubbles will not mix regularly, only sharing lunch halls and outside spaces, which will be split to keep classes separate but where required staff can cross year groups within their bubbles to fulfill their role if needed. Children and staff members will not mix across bubbles and movement around the school will be limited.

**Wraparound Care**

Breakfast club and after school club will be re-opening for working parents only. Breakfast club will open at 7.45am in the school hall (please enter through the front office) for children of working parents only – this must be booked via the school office, you cannot just turn up. After school club will close at 5.45pm – this will take place in the afterschool club room.

On Friday afternoons, we will be closed as we were pre-lockdown. Children will need to be collected at 12.05pm-12.15pm. This will only be until the Easter holidays. After the Easter holiday, we will be open and begin our enrichment activities on a Thursday again. We will continue to run the wraparound offer on a Friday afternoon.

If you wish to book your children into wraparound care for Breakfast, after school club or on a Friday afternoon, please book via the office as soon as possible. All wraparound needs to be pre-booked in advance – you cannot just turn up due to safety regulations.

**Drop off and Pick up**

Drop off and collection will be the same as pre-lock down.

Members of SLT will open the gates and be on hand to welcome the children into school and give directions to where children need to go. Social distancing and entrance labels will be on display for you to see and refer to. Parents are to wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting children.

Congregating on the playground will not be allowed therefore gates will not be open until the arrival and collection window point so please do not arrive too early and we ask that to minimise risk, you social distance and leave the school grounds as quickly as possible. If you have siblings on different playgrounds, you will need to collect from the different playgrounds. Teachers will keep hold of your children until you arrive to collect.

Children in Year 5 and 6 will not be able to walk home alone without a letter of consent from a parent. If your permission letter was given earlier this year a new note will not be needed. If you are unsure if a note is needed, please contact the school office.

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|  | Arrival time/Window | Arrival point | Collection time | Collection point |
| EYFS/Key stage 1 | 8.45 -8.55 | Children enter through their gates (no parents access apart from nursery and reception class) | 3.15 – 3.25 | Follow the one way systems in place. |
| Kay stage 2 | 8.45 – 8.55 | Children enter through gates:  Yr 4 and 5 single gate  Yr 3 and 6 double get  (no parents on the playground) | 3.15 – 3.25 | Follow the one way system in place – enter through the double gate, leave through single gate. |

Children will resume wearing full school uniform and will need to wear school PE Kit on PE days– all should be labelled. A further letter will be sent regarding PE days.

Uniform consist of Grey Trousers or skirt, White shirt, Purple jumper or cardigan, Tie and Black shoes **(not black trainers).** PE Kit consists of white t-shirt, black shorts, pumps or trainers – Please label items of clothing. PE Kits must be in school for PE lessons – they will be sent home for washing after PE lessons.

Please do not allow your child to bring in anything from home – toys, books, stationary, sanitiser. Everything they need will be provided by the school. They may bring a water bottle and a lunchbox to school with them – these do not have to be disposable.

**Are children required to wear a face mask to school?**

The government has stated that it is not compulsory for primary aged children to wear face masks, however we are happy for children to wear them if you as parents require them to do so. If they do bring a face mask, it needs to be either:

1. A disposable mask that will be put in the bin on removal.
2. A re-usable mask – if you choose this option please provide a small plastic bag for children to pop them into if they remove them.

Please note, we will not make children wear face masks - if your child wears a mask to school and chooses to remove it, the mask will be placed in the bin or in the bag to come home as it is not recommended that facemasks be removed and re-applied. Children must have a fresh one/washed one every day.

**What will happen if my child becomes ill with COVID symptoms whilst at school?**

If your child develops symptoms at school, we will contact parents and ask for them to be collected from the after school club entrance off the main carpark. Your child will be waiting with an adult from within their bubble. They will then be asked to isolate and get a COVID test. We ask that parents then follow the guidance for isolation until the test result is received and that they communicate with the school in regards to results of the test.

**What will happen if my child becomes ill with COVID symptoms whilst at home?**

If your child develops COVID symptoms whilst at home, please call in your child’s absence as normal and follow isolation/testing guidelines. It is vitally important that your child does not attend if unwell with suspected COVID. If experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test you must remain at home for at least 10 days after the onset of your symptoms .This will reduce the risk of you infecting others.

Your child should not attend school if people within your household has COVID symptoms until a negative result is received.

Senior leaders and staff would like to say thank you for all of your continued support throughout this lockdown. We are very much looking forward to school re-opening and teaching the children in the classroom rather than virtually. We would like to reassure you that we will follow guidance and risk assessments to keep staff and pupils as safe as possible. All staff at Rowley Park will continue to complete lateral flow testing twice weekly.

If you have any further questions, please email [headteacher@rowleyparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@rowleyparkacademy.org.uk) or call the school office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Mrs Beaumont,

Headteacher