



ROSSETT ACRE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Corrine Penhale Deputy Headteacher: Kate Woodcock

Our school:

'Excellence and happiness for all'

Charity No.1048680

Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As promised, here is some information about school re-opening on Monday 8 March 2021. All children should wear school uniform to school, including school shoes (for the small minority of children who have outgrown their shoes, please wear sensible footwear which are not brightly coloured). Uniform does not need to be laundered any more than usual.

We will be following very similar procedures as we did when the children returned to school in September 2020. A comprehensive risk assessment will be in place before the children return on Monday, as previously.

Children in all year groups will be returning next Monday, as stated by the government and attendance will be mandatory.

To reduce potential 'infection chains', the children will be taught in their usual classes which will be approximately 30 children. However, as was the case in the Autumn term, **both** classes in each year group will be a 'bubble' from next Monday.

As the outdoor environment is more conducive in reducing virus transmission, if the weather is favourable, the children will spend a lot of time learning outdoors. The outdoor spaces will be zoned for each bubble. Any equipment used will be cleaned after each bubble has used it. The IT suite may be used and laptops/ipads and surfaces will be cleaned between each bubble using them.

There will be no assemblies, (with the exception of a whole school Monday online one) and lunches will be eaten in the allocated classroom for that bubble or outdoors in their designated space, if the weather permits. Children receiving school dinners will have their lunches delivered to them; there will be a hot option provided in a transportable carton e.g. fish fingers and wedges or a sandwich option.

If your child brings their own packed lunch to school, they may do so in a lunch box. Please could children bring lunchboxes in a small bag, if required, as cloakroom space is limited. Additionally, children may bring a Rossett Acre book bag or a zipped wallet into school with them.

Children in EYFS to Y4 can bring their PE kit, preferably in a drawstring bag. No big bags or rucksacks please.

All children in Y5 and Y6 will need to wear their PE kits to school on their allocated PE day. (They will be informed during the first week back when this will be). Y5 & Y6 children may bring in a change of top in a carrier bag to put on after their PE session.



We will do our best to encourage social distancing in school, but parents must understand that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch adults and one another and come into close contact. This is why the children are in bubbles. Please be aware that the nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that in spite of our planning and preparations this is unavoidable. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are realistically able to do in school.

Hygiene measures will continue to be in place to keep children and staff as safe as we can.

To minimise the risk of Covid-19 being spread, we will ensure that:

- we provide sufficient handwashing facilities - soap, running water and paper towels will be provided and hand gel is located at key points around school, if necessary
- all adults and children frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches are cleaned more regularly than normal
- all adults and children clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before eating, returning from breaks, after sneezing or coughing and at the end of the school day.
- All adults and children are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- All adults and children use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- we encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) to attempt to reduce airborne transmission
- where possible and safe, doors are propped open, (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding) to limit use of door handles and to aid ventilation
- We will provide resources/equipment for each individual child to use in class, which they should not share with anyone else. Children must not bring any equipment in from home, other than their reading book and PE kit. Any resources that are shared will be thoroughly disinfected after use or quarantined for 72 hours.
- use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes, as identified in our Risk Assessments, when providing First Aid
- only move around inside school where absolutely necessary and implement procedures, such as: one way system, use of outdoor routes and external entrances/exits, staggered pick up and drop off times, encouraging social distancing for adults and children wherever possible
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms and act swiftly and decisively, isolate them and ask parents to collect them
- removal of unnecessary items from classrooms
- removal of soft furnishing, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean
- keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home
- there will be registers on the classroom doors so that anyone entering a bubble who is not normally in that bubble is recorded, so that they can be traced if a case of Covid 19 occurs.

We have additional cleaning in place during the day to help us achieve the thorough cleaning of surfaces, toilets, door handles etc.

Primary aged children should not wear masks in school, as per government guidance. If children wear a mask to come to school in, they will be asked to remove it at the school gate/class external door before entering the premises. There will be suitable bins for disposal of masks, or children may put their mask in a zipped plastic wallet (eg resealable plastic food bag) for use at the end of the day on the way home. (Please provide a bag for your child, if needed).

If your child is extremely clinically vulnerable and has been advised to wear a mask in school by a medical professional, please contact school and speak to Miss Woodcock (DHT).

Important: As was previously the case, please be aware that all parents need to be willing to book a test if either themselves or their child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Parents and children **should not** come to school if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

If symptoms develop in school, the child will be isolated and parents will be asked to collect the child immediately and self-isolate. You or your child cannot return to school without a negative test result or speaking to someone at NHS 119 for further guidance.

[‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#)

There is also a handy ‘stay at home illustration’

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961291/Stay_at_home_illustration_Feb_2021.pdf

Should your child test positive for Covid-19, please let us know immediately by using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QdSTWK9uvEaTiKxY5-f2oF8PqelaoV9AsvDEGb4UojFUNFJUOEdbWTIKMKhYQjZKMTIGRIDSTE1Ui4u>

If your child needs to self-isolate as another family member has the virus or they have been in close contact with someone who has the virus, please let us know via the office email: office@rap.rkt.co.uk

Parents/Carers must also be ready and willing to provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if contacted by NHS Track and Trace.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms, they should isolate and arrange for a test. **Whilst the family member and/or the child is awaiting the test results, they must continue to isolate and not come into school.** This is paramount. If this simple step isn't taken, then the virus spreads quickly, putting many families and staff at risk. Thank you.

At school, if a child has Covid 19 symptoms, they will be sent home. Whilst a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, where possible and isolated from others. This may be outside in the fresh air or could be in a room in the bungalow. If they are isolating inside we will open a window/outside door for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If the child needs to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use the toilet in the bungalow. The toilet will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. In an emergency, staff will call 999 if a child is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.

Note: You may have heard through media coverage that lateral flow testing kits are now available to parents and bubbles of school aged children, that can be carried out at home. There are various ways of accessing these kits, through your employer, ordering them online (although kits are limited via this method) and collecting from testing centres. Please see the link below for GOV.UK which gives all the information you should need to access kits.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

During the first week back, we will be settling the children and focussing on emotional well-being and re-establishing school culture/work ethic/routines. Children will need nurture and support to help them to understand their experiences and time to talk about them. After that, we will assess where children are so that we can begin to plan any interventions/teaching required to support children, helping them to accelerate progress. We will be concentrating on skills in English, Maths and Science as we settle into our new routines, then the curriculum will broaden and return to normal.

Support for children's emotional well-being will be available from your child's class teacher, teaching assistants, from members of the Nurture Team and from the DHT/Inclusion Manager, Miss Kate Woodcock.

Our Inclusion Manager and small team of staff trained to provide nurture, are part of a very small number of adults in school who are able to cross into bubbles, if needed, and will observe very strict hygiene procedures.

There will be opportunities for all children to discuss their feelings, play, rebuild friendships and have times when they can just relax if they are feeling overwhelmed.

If you have any worries about your child, please get in touch with your child's class teacher or Miss Woodcock and we can discuss how we can help. Likewise, if we have any worries about your child we will contact you.

Arrival at the beginning and departure at the end of the day

This will be the same as in the Autumn term. All parents/carers need to wear a face covering please when on the school premises, including the playground at drop off and pick up. Thank you.

There is a one way system in place. The 'IN' gates are the contractors gate on Richmond Avenue, where the new path was installed and/or the gate besides the Rossett High School Car Park. The 'OUT' gates are the main gate on Richmond Avenue beside the pedestrian crossing and/or the gate at the front of the school, next to the front entrance of the Sports Hall.

Please can all parents and children ensure they access/exit school using the correct gates.

All children should arrive at school between 8:40am and 8:55am in a morning and be dropped at their external classroom door. This 15-minute window when children can be dropped off will ease congestion as it did in the Autumn term. Parents will need to drop their child and leave the school premises swiftly please to help keep everyone safe.

Please remember that social distancing is imperative in the playground at all times, even whilst waiting for your child to enter/exit the building, and younger children should be kept with parents and not allowed to wander. We would appreciate it if you could encourage your children to walk and not run in the playground; this applies in our own car park area and the Rossett Sports Car Park too. Please ensure you supervise your children in all areas, especially where traffic is present.

Children in EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 should be collected from school at 3:10pm and children in Years 3, 5 and 6 should be collected from school at 3:20pm. As this is only a 10-minute window, children will need to be collected at their designated home time and siblings cannot be collected at an earlier time. Parents who have collected at 3:10pm and are waiting to collect a child at 3:20pm will need to wait (socially distanced) in the playground, or at the front of the school building, depending where your child exits.

Late arrivals to school should enter via the main school entrance and be signed in. Parents must not enter the building.

We encourage all parents/carers and children to walk to school whenever possible. Please be aware that there is **no storage** for bikes/scooters at present, so if children use these to come to school on, parents/carers will need to take them home again with them. Children should not use scooters or bikes on the school playground and should dismount before entering the site and not get onto their bikes or scooters until they have left the site. This helps to avoid accidents, including people getting run over or bumped into by enthusiastic children. Thank you.

Parents/carers should follow the government guidance on how to travel safely when planning their travel on public transport.

For further details, please see: [safer travel guidance for passengers](#)

If you have children in different classes or Key Stages. How can I drop off/pick up?

KS2 children should be left at the gate to walk into school unaccompanied. Staff will be on hand to direct them if necessary.

Parents may accompany EYFS/KS1 children to their classrooms but will not be allowed to enter the school building.

If you have siblings in different key stages: for drop off, you should drop off your youngest child first – KS2 children can be dropped at their allocated gate; for pick up, you will need to pick up your EYFS/KS1 child first before collecting your KS2 child. (For parents with children in Y4 who are also leaving school at 3.10pm, it may be easier for you to pick up your older child first and then pick up your younger child, depending on the gate you use).

If your child is in Y5/6 and you would prefer them to walk home independently, please ensure that you have completed a permission form. (At the bottom of this letter).

If you are concerned that your child is feeling anxious about coming back to school.

You will need to prepare and remind your child by talking to them about what school was like in the Autumn term 2020 and that it will be very similar to that.

Our Nurture Team have been speaking to families throughout lockdown and preparing children for their return to school. If you have not needed to access support from the Nurture Team but now feel you and/or your child would benefit from a telephone call, then you can contact the Nurture Team by telephone via the main school telephone number.

Or alternatively, you can contact your child's class teacher via Dojo or Tapestry, or Miss Woodcock, through the school office.

Fun Club

Fun Club will re-open from Monday 8 March 2021. They have their own comprehensive risk assessment and guidance in place. You can contact Fun Club by using the following email address: jenny@funclubs.co.uk

Visitors into school

We will allow some sports coaches/peripatetic teachers to run lunchtime clubs and music sessions as and when we feel it is safe to do so and we have appropriate space available in school. All other visitors will be kept to a minimum and will be by appointment only.

It is unlikely, in the short-term, that staff in school will run lunchtime clubs as many will be supervising children at lunchtime.

We request that parents/carers, instead of attending our school office or speaking to staff face to face, restrict themselves to using the telephone where messages are time sensitive or make use of our online platforms or email. Staff will respond to Dojo and Tapestry messages, however, please be aware that they will be teaching during the day and may not be able to respond immediately.

All children will be expected to follow the school behaviour policy and expectations when back in school. As in the Autumn term, in relation to the spreading of Coronavirus-19, should a child 'cough' deliberately in someone else's face, school will take this very seriously and it will be classed as an assault. We will explain to the child the dangers and consequences of these actions in an appropriate way for their age and understanding, possibly using a social story. Parents will be telephoned and may have to come and collect their child resulting in a fixed term exclusion. The appendix to our behaviour policy reflects this.

We expect swimming lessons will take place when Swimming Pools are able to re-open and guidance and control measures allow. This provision will be for our Y4 pupils. More information relating to this will be sent out to parents/carers in this year group as required.

School visits: Currently, we have no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice. This will be kept under review.

What your child should bring to school each day - reminder

- Water bottle
- PE kit – EYFS to Y4 (Y5/6 to come to school in PE kit on their allocated days for PE lessons)
- Coat
- Lunchbox, if required
- Reading book if provided from school

Mobile phones are safest at home, and should not be brought into school unless absolutely necessary. If mobile phones are brought into school, they must be handed in to the class teacher for storage in the classroom.

Please be aware that school will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to mobile phones. They are brought in entirely at child's/parents' own risk.

Apologies for the huge letter but there is a lot to share!

Finally, I would like to thank parents/carers for your continued support over the current lockdown period. We have had so many positive emails about our remote learning package and the support children have received from our staff.

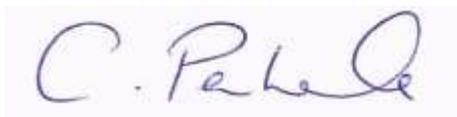
I would also like to say a big 'well done' to all the parents/carers who have kept their children at home and carried out home learning: we know it hasn't been easy. You did it!

Additionally, a huge thank you to all the Key worker parents who have been working tirelessly through lockdown, many on the frontline. We are very grateful for everything you have done.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday. We will take care of them and try to be as accessible as we can for you, whilst working within the guidelines.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

Kind regards,



Corrine Penhale
Headteacher

Note: The permission form for children walking home without an adult is on the next page.



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Dear Parent/Carer

CHILDREN WALKING HOME WITHOUT AN ADULT: PERMISSION IS NEEDED

I realise that when children reach Year 5 and Year 6 you may want to encourage independence and allow your child to walk home alone, with friends or with older siblings.

At Rossett Acre we do not encourage children younger than this to walk home alone, however several parents of children in Year 4 have informed us that their child will be walking home with an older sibling.

Some parents who pick up more than one child may wish their older child(ren) to walk around and find them on the playground or at the school gate. *Please reiterate to your child that if they cannot find you, they must return back to the school building and inform a member of staff.*

If any of the above are the case for your child, please complete the permission slip below and return to your child's class teacher.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Corrine Penhale

Headteacher

CONSENT FOR YOUR CHILD TO LEAVE SCHOOL WITHOUT AN ADULT

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

YEARS 5 & 6

I give permission for my child to walk home alone after school.

YEARS 4, 5 & 6

I give permission for my child to find me on the playground or at the school gate

I give permission for my child to walk home with an older sibling

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer Date: _____

Please return to your child's class teacher.