**Coronavirus Closure Update – 15th May 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your loved ones continue to stay safe and well during this difficult period. The staff and myself are looking forward to seeing you all as soon as it is safe to do so.

As you’re aware, on Sunday 10th May the Government announced the phased “reopening” of schools from 1st June 2020, with the Government’s ambition being that all primary schools prepare for opening to all pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year’s 1 and 6 from the week commencing 1st June, in addition to those students who are already in attendance in the priority group (vulnerable children and the children of critical workers).

In response to this announcement and the information provided the Leadership Team has been working on a bespoke Risk Assessment which considers all of the necessary factors that will need to be addressed in order to widen the number of children who will be able to access the school after May half term.

I want to reassure you that as a Trust we will only allow our schools to begin to reopen when and if the assessment of the risk indicates that it is safe for both children and staff to return.

While we have already begun a detailed process to assess all the options; the reopening of any schools on the 1st June 2020 is still subject to the Government’s 5 tests for easing the lockdown measures being met; these are as follows: -

1. Protect the NHS’s ability to cope.

2. See a sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates

3. Evidence that the rate of infection is decreasing

4. confident that there is sufficient testing capacity and PPE to meet future demand.

5. Be confident that there will not be a second peak of infections that overwhelms the NHS.

**Information gathering for potential reopening of The Rydal Academy**

School staff will be trying to contact all Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parent/carers by telephone on **Tuesday 19th May** to find out if you intend to send your child/children in to school if the school is to reopen after half term. **This information will be essential to our action planning!**

**Please make sure you respond to our calls as an indication of the number of pupils returning after half term is critical in determining our plans.**

The following information on some of the actions we are considering for when pupils begin to return to the school is designed to support you in your decision making prior to you informing the school of your decision on whether your children are returning to the school on reopening (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents to be contacted on Tuesday 19th May). The proposals are not formalised at this stage and are subject to changing guidance and timescales.

Once numbers are confirmed I will share further information on what provision will look like after half term in an update on Friday 22nd May.

Possible proposals for the organisation of phased school reopening:

**Date for return**

As the school has already assigned Monday 1st June as a training day the school will only be open to Priority children (Key Worker or Vulnerable children) on Monday 1st June. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children will return on Tuesday 2nd June unless the government advise otherwise.

**Attendance**

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 registers will be completed daily parents should inform schools of absence as normal. Parents will not be fined if children do not attend. School will make a record of parents’ decisions.

**Sibling attendance**

The siblings of pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in year groups which have not returned to school (Year 2, 3, 4, 5) will not be able to access school at the present time unless they are identified as Priority children (Key Worker or Vulnerable children)

**Dual registration Nursery pupils**

Pupils should only attend one setting. We will engage in a discussion with parent/carers on which setting they would prefer their children to attend.

**Symptoms**

Any pupils with symptoms or symptoms within their household should **not attend school** and should self-isolate in line with the latest government guidance.

**Shielding**

Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils (will have received a letter / text from NHS)

Children should stay at home and continue to shield until the end of June, this advice could change.

Children living with Clinically extremely vulnerable people in their household (will have received a letter / text from NHS)

Pupils who live with someone who is Clinically extremely vulnerable should stay home while the Clinically extremely vulnerable person continues to shield, this advice could change.

Clinically vulnerable pupils (former high risk but did not get a letter / text from NHS)

Children's parents should follow medical advice as to whether to send them to school. Children who live with someone who is Clinically vulnerable can attend school.

**Transport**

The school bus will not be running until further notice.

**Wraparound care**

Breakfast club, Youth club, extra-curricular clubs will not be running until further notice.

**Priority children**

We will continue our offer for Priority children (Key worker or Vulnerable children) in Year 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Children in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will not be able to access this group** or the extended day to avoid mixing between groupings.

**Remote learning**

We will continue to send work packs home at the end of each half-term for the following half-term for all pupils until the school is fully reopened. Weekly message to each class not in school will also continue, although this may not be from the class teacher if they are providing in school support. Broader communication with staff through email and Tapestry or Marvellous Me may also be limited due to on-site commitments.

**Guidance for parent/carers prior to return to school**

**If you have not provided us with an email and downloaded the Marvellous Me (Year 1 to 6) or Tapestry (Nursery and Reception) App please do this ASAP.** Emails are our primary source of communication and you could be missing vital information if you are not receiving them. Tapestry and Marvellous Me are the Apps that teachers are using to send out learning ideas and to keep in contact with parents and pupils. Please download the relevant App for your child’s age group.

To contact teachers directly about learning tasks please use the emails below:

Nursery – mchapman@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

RF - ledgar@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

RS – lstaples-clough@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

RW - ewright@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

1C - csenior@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

1J - jsalt@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

1M - amorris@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

2E - kelvy@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

2P - aplatten@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

2W - cwhinfield@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

3B - ablackburn@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

3P - jpark@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

3T - ataylor@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

4D - vdenham@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

4M - kmellard@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

4W - from Monday 18th May please contact gyeomans@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

5M - mcockerill@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

5R - rcampbell@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

5W - awaller@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

6E - sellis@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

6M - cmawson@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

6W - ewells@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

ELMS – cking1@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

For general enquiries please email officeadmin@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

**Children working from home**

Class teachers will send a weekly message through Tapestry or Marvellous Me each Thursday/Friday with challenges and links to activity ideas. New work packs will be posted out next week (WB 18th May). Try to follow the 10 remote learning activities below.

**READING EVERY DAY IS ESSENTIAL FOR FUTURE PROGRESS ACROSS ALL SUBJECTS!**

Please follow this guidance to ensure your child stays up to date with their learning. Make sure your child does some or all of the following as regularly as you can:

1) Practices their phonics using the phoneme cards or tricky words (Reception) and/or reads for a minimum of 30 minutes (Reception, Year 1 & 2) or an hour (Years 3 - 6) – every day please.

2) Completes at least one maths and one English activity from the work packs they have been assigned. (Nursery to Year 6)

3) Completes at least one activity from the Enrichment grids (Years 1 - 6) or load a picture/video of your child’s learning/play on to Tapestry (Nursery and Reception)

4) 30+ minutes on Mathletics (Year 1 to Year 6)

5) 30+ minutes on ReadingEggs (Reception to Year 6)

6) Take part in physical exercise of play for at least 1 hour. (Nursery to Year 6)

7) Spends at least 10 minutes talking to someone about the things they have been doing and what they have learned. (Nursery to Year 6)

8) Has a story read to them (Nursery to Year 6) – Nursery and Reception we will post a video daily.

9) Laughs about something, anything!

\* 10) Year 6 pupils completes an activity on SATS companion. – this is still useful for Secondary transition.

If you can do these things daily or need to spread them across the week do what works for you.

To access Mathletics, ReadingEggs and a range of other websites that the children use at school please go to <https://therydalacademy.rmunify.com/>  and ask the children to log-in with the same log-in and password they use in school.

**Department for Education support for parents**

We understand this is a challenging time for parents too, many of whom are now supporting their children’s learning at home or may have questions about their children potentially returning to school.

We have developed the following guidance and resources for parents to support them at this time:

* [Q&A](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA1MTMuMjE0Mjk3ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5nb3YudWsvZ292ZXJubWVudC9wdWJsaWNhdGlvbnMvY2xvc3VyZS1vZi1lZHVjYXRpb25hbC1zZXR0aW5ncy1pbmZvcm1hdGlvbi1mb3ItcGFyZW50cy1hbmQtY2FyZXJzL2Nsb3N1cmUtb2YtZWR1Y2F0aW9uYWwtc2V0dGluZ3MtaW5mb3JtYXRpb24tZm9yLXBhcmVudHMtYW5kLWNhcmVycz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.36PYNyvoMtVgWMxTPolnvfY-P_W-cULHsAvuiyf55g8/br/78556345084-l) which answers key questions parents may have
* [Guidance for parentson phased reopening of education settings](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA1MTMuMjE0Mjk3ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5nb3YudWsvZ292ZXJubWVudC9wdWJsaWNhdGlvbnMvY2xvc3VyZS1vZi1lZHVjYXRpb25hbC1zZXR0aW5ncy1pbmZvcm1hdGlvbi1mb3ItcGFyZW50cy1hbmQtY2FyZXJzL3Jlb3BlbmluZy1zY2hvb2xzLWFuZC1vdGhlci1lZHVjYXRpb25hbC1zZXR0aW5ncy1mcm9tLTEtanVuZT91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.0rI0GS0tD4tEUUb4ebfuy04MUAyg6hiaFuhl4-_u_0k/br/78556345084-l)
* [Guidance for parents on supporting learning at home](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA1MTMuMjE0Mjk3ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5nb3YudWsvZ3VpZGFuY2Uvc3VwcG9ydGluZy15b3VyLWNoaWxkcmVucy1lZHVjYXRpb24tZHVyaW5nLWNvcm9uYXZpcnVzLWNvdmlkLTE5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.IVCj76BZdXbRePfRi_kR2ahMl8jscOqfe7Jo3Y0P8y4/br/78556345084-l) for early years and primary age children (secondary school guidance to follow)
* List of [online resources](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA1MTMuMjE0Mjk3ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5nb3YudWsvZ292ZXJubWVudC9wdWJsaWNhdGlvbnMvY29yb25hdmlydXMtY292aWQtMTktb25saW5lLWVkdWNhdGlvbi1yZXNvdXJjZXMvY29yb25hdmlydXMtY292aWQtMTktbGlzdC1vZi1vbmxpbmUtZWR1Y2F0aW9uLXJlc291cmNlcy1mb3ItaG9tZS1lZHVjYXRpb24_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.Cnu6pivxJA-Hxi21-2fYpW6xXzazDMIkA0UoSe8xAiU/br/78556345084-l) to support children’s development

**Summary**

Use the COVID19 information tab on the school website for further information and access to the most recent guidance and information. Regular updates will also be posted on the schools Facebook page.

Please consider the information contained in this letter carefully in your decision making process. We will be in touch on Tuesday 19th May for an initial indication.

Stay safe! You are in our thoughts.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J.M.Armitage     B.Ed (Hons); NPQH

Headteacher