**Coronavirus Closure Update – 22nd May 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to begin by thanking two different groups.

Firstly, in the week of ‘Thank a teacher day’ I would not only like to say thank you to our teachers but the entire INCREDIBLE staff I am blessed to work with at The Rydal Academy. Throughout this unbelievably challenging and uncertain period their commitment to our school community and the families they serve has shone like a beacon. Collectively they have put their own worries and personal situations aside and have simply, got on with the job, with their usual grace and professionalism. Thank you does not do justice to their unwavering desire to ‘put the children first’. I am proud beyond words of the work you have done.

Secondly, huge thanks to our parent/carers and pupils for your patience at this time. I have tried to avoid bombarding you with information on the possibilities of what may or may not happen in the coming weeks during such a period of change. Thank you to those parent/carers of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children who were able to give an indication of their current thoughts on whether their child would potentially be returning to school once we begin the expansion of partial opening. This information has been invaluable in the planning and risk assessment process we are currently developing.

However, it is important to note that 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.

**I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that Swift Academies 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.**

Therefore, at this stage I can confirm that:

1. The school will continue to remain open for Priority children (Key Worker and Vulnerable children)
2. The school will not begin to reopen to any other pupils in the w/b 1st June 2020.

This will allow us to receive feedback on whether the Government’s 5 tests for easing the lockdown measures have been met and digest and reflect on the governments update on Thursday 28th May. As a result of these two announcements we will review and develop our planning and risk assessments further in preparation for writing to you again in the w/b Monday 1st June with an update as to the schools plans for the w/b 8th June.

**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 – from Monday 1st June contact njeffries@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

2M - 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**

New work packs which cover the full half term to the summer holidays have been posted out to all pupils (Nursery to Year 6) this week.

Class teachers will send a weekly message through Tapestry or Marvellous Me each Thursday/Friday with challenges and links to activity ideas.

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

Looking forward to seeing you all as soon as it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J.M.Armitage     B.Ed (Hons); NPQH

Headteacher