
Coronavirus update – 15th July 2020 – RE: September reopening

Dear Parent/Carer,

The government guidance published on Thursday 2nd July states,

“Returning to school is vital for children’s education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children’s cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children’s future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families.

Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), and this guidance explains the steps schools need to take to reduce risks still further. As a result, we can plan for all children to return and start to reverse the enormous costs of missed education. This will be an important move back towards normal life for many children and families.”

Guidance for full opening - schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Arrangements for the full return of all pupils in September will be as follows:

Date for return

All children will return to school on Wednesday 2nd September. We can’t wait to see our existing pupils back in school and to welcome our new starters.

Preparing your child for a return to school

Social stories and reintegration activities can be offered to support pupils and many have been shared on the school Facebook page or across Marvellous Me and Tapestry. We would also encourage you to revisit the hygiene practices outlined in this letter regularly with your child and to re-establish some of your normal routines, such as term time morning alarms and bed times, before the return to school. Also use the transition brochures we provided with details of new classes for regular discussion about September classes and staff.

Attendance

All children will be expected to attend school daily. Shielding pupils will be expected to return to school unless they receive specific clinical advice to the contrary, which should be shared with the school. Please inform the office by 10am of any absence as normal, otherwise you may receive a phone call or home visit.

If pupils are showing symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, have somebody in their household who is showing symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, have been contacted by Track and Trace or are part of a school bubble who have been advised to self-isolate children **should not** attend school.



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Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, BEd, NPQH

Head Teacher: Mr J Armitage BEd (Hons), NPQH

Pupils who can't attend school (Shielding / self-isolating)

Please inform the school if you have received clinical advice that your child is required to continue shielding after the 1st September. If your child and/or household are required to self-isolate please inform the school immediately.

The school will organise a remote education package for any pupils who are unable to attend school.

At risk groups and those with protected characteristics

If your child is in an at risk group please inform the school if you would like us to put an individual risk assessment in place.

Dual registration Nursery pupils

If your child attends another Nursery or childcare setting please share this information with the school so we can share risk assessment arrangements with the other provider and ensure consistency of approach for your child where possible.

Start and end times

We have extended our usual open door approach and increased the number of entrances in use to distance individual year groups. Each year group should be dropped off and picked up through the following entrances during the specified time slots. **Children should be collected from school and will not be permitted to walk home alone.**

	Site entrance/exit	Pupil entrance/exit	Drop-off time	Pick-up time
Nursery (am)	Nursery gate	Nursery door	8:45am – 9:00am	11:45am – 12:00pm
Nursery (pm)	Nursery gate	Nursery door	12:30pm – 12:45pm	3:30pm – 3:45pm
Nursery (day)	Nursery gate	Nursery door	8:45am – 9:00am	3:30pm – 3:45pm
Reception	Key Stage 1 gate	Reception door	8:30am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:45pm
Little ELMS	Key Stage 1 gate	Little ELMS door	8:45am – 9:00am	3:30pm – 3:45pm
Year 1	Key Stage 1 gate	Year 1 door	8:30am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:45pm
Year 2	Key Stage 1 gate	Year 2/3 door	8:30am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:45pm
ELMS	Key Stage 1 gate	Year 2/3 door	8:30am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:45pm
Year 3	Main entrance	Staff entrance / Late gate	8:30am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:45pm
Year 4	Year 4 gate	Year 4 door	8:30am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:45pm
Year 5	Key Stage 2 gate	Breakfast club door	8:30am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:45pm
Year 6	Key Stage 2 gate	Year 5/6 door	8:30am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:45pm
Breakfast / Youth club (Reception, Year 1, Year 2)	Key Stage 1 gate	Year 1 door	7:30am – 8:30am	3:45pm – 6:00pm
Breakfast / Youth club (Year 3 to Year 6)	Key Stage 2 gate	Breakfast club door	7:30am – 8:30am	3:45pm – 6:00pm

Pick-up / drop-off protocol

Please read and adhere to the attached Drop-off and pick-up protocol.

Pupil removal of face covering protocol

It is the parent/carers responsibility to manage the removal of children's face coverings in line with best hygiene practices prior to their entry into the school. Pupils will not be permitted to wear PPE in school.



Transport

The school bus **will not be running** until further notice.

Parents and children should consider walking and cycling where possible, or driving if necessary. The government has published guidance on [how to travel safely](#), which schools, parents and young people can refer to when planning their travel, particularly if they need to use public transport.

Wraparound care

Breakfast club and Youth club will restart in September but **places will need to be booked in advance and will be limited to 10 places per year group on a first come first served basis**. Any pupils we are unable to accommodate will be placed on a waiting list. Provision will continue to be free.

Reception, Year 1 and 2 children with an allocated place will need to be dropped off at Breakfast club between 7:30am and 8:30am and collected from Youth Club between 3:45pm and 6pm via the Year 1 door in the Key Stage 1 playground.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children with an allocated place will need to be dropped off at Breakfast club between 7:30am and 8:30am and collected from Youth Club between 3:45pm and 6pm via the usual door in the Key Stage 2 playground.

To book a place for Breakfast Club or Youth Club please email officeadmin@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk under the title of 'Breakfast club' or 'Youth club' with your child's name and the year group they will be in September. Places will need to be block booked across the week so please only reserve them if you really need them. Any requests received before 11:30am on Friday 17th July will be responded to before the end of term, any requests which come after then may not be responded to until September.

Extra-curricular clubs **will not be running** until further notice.

Nursery fees

Fees for any extra nursery sessions booked will be reinstated from September.

Uniform

As normal please make sure children wear a white polo, blue jumper or cardigan. Instead of trousers, skirts, dresses, shoes and boots please send children in tracksuit bottoms / jogging bottoms or leggings and trainers so no changing is required for PE or exercise time.

Children may have grown considerably over the six month period between March to September. If any support is required with uniform please inform the office via email to officeadmin@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk under the title 'Uniform cupboard'. We will continue to provide free recycled uniform if we have it.

Any items which were left in school and are named will be returned to pupils in September. For unnamed items we will require a brief description emailed to the office and will do our best to return them to the children.

What to bring to school

Children should not bring any items to school apart from a packed lunch (if you do not wish to access a school meal – please put this in a disposable bag if possible), a coat and their school reading book.



Groupings

Pupils will remain in class groups in their classrooms where possible to avoid cross-contamination. Access to shared areas and movement around the school to be staggered and minimised.

The only exceptions to class groupings will be:

- Breakfast club and Youth club where children will be distanced by year group.
- Phonics groups for Reception to Year 3 where groups will be mixed within a year group
- In the lunch hall for dinner where children will be distanced by year group.

Classrooms

We will remove unnecessary furniture, open windows for ventilation, prop doors open if safe to do so to avoid touching. We will provide tissues, hand gel and wipes in each room. Bins will be emptied regularly. Each pupil will be provided with their own: pencil case, pencil, colour pencils, rubber, pencil sharpener, exercise books, water bottle, reading book, whiteboard, whiteboard pen, white board rubber where appropriate. Pupils will be seated in rows and facing the front in Year 1 to 6 to limit the possibility of face-to-face contact.

Outdoor areas

Outdoor areas have been allocated to individual classes at staggered times for PE, exercise and break times. No contact activities will be permitted. Pupils will wash hands when coming back into the building.

Shared areas and movement around the school

The only internal shared area in use will be the Key Stage 2 hall for PE and lunch. Movement around the school will be limited to individual classes going to the Key Stage 2 hall for PE or lunch, individual classes accessing the outdoor areas or access to the toilets.

Pupils and staff will follow a social distancing one way systems in corridors and halls when moving to toilets or outdoors. If passing another class pupils will be encouraged to give a thumbs up or wave to reduce face to face contact and talking.

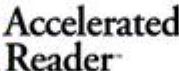
Lunches

Lunchtime arrangements will return to normal with children accessing a 30 minute sit-down meal in the school hall. Lunches will be charged at the normal rate. For more information please see the school website. Please use the schools online payment system to make menu selections and for payment where possible.

Learning and curriculum

We are delighted to be launching our exciting new curriculum in September, keep an eye on the school website over the coming months to see programmes of study for each subject in the form of learning journeys which will also share ideas for places to visit, books to read or activities to do at home to help further embed learning.

Although we will be providing a full curriculum offer some subjects will be affected. Assemblies will be shared through video links to classrooms. Only limited educational visits will be permitted where social distancing guidelines can be strictly adhered to. Robinwood is currently cancelled. There will be alterations to the PE curriculum due to contact sports not being permitted. Swimming lessons could be disrupted for a period of time. Bikeability and pedestrian training sessions will not take place this year. The Music curriculum will be altered as no singing, chanting or shouting activities will take place unless outdoors and socially spaced. Across all subjects use of shared resources will be minimalized and hard to clean items will not be in use.



Recovery curriculum

For details on our recovery curriculum plan please see the previously shared 'Actions to support Rydal children during lockdown' on the school website.

Remote education offer

In September we will publish the schools remote education offer on the website. When required a remote education package will be put in place immediately for any pupils unable to attend school due to public health (self-isolating) or clinical (shielding) advice.

Statutory testing

Reception baseline assessments will not take place next year. All other primary assessment (Year 1 & 2 phonics tests, Year 2 teacher assessments, Year 4 timetables tests, Year 6 SATS) are reinstated for the 2020-21 academic year.

Inspection

Ofsted inspections are currently paused until January 2021.

Mental health, wellbeing and pastoral support

Cohort teaching assistants or the pastoral team will provide support or talking time for any children struggling with the return to school or who have experienced trauma or loss during the closure period.

The behaviour policy has been reviewed and updated. Where we have concerns around any children being able to effectively follow the rules and routines a risk assessment and support plan will be completed alongside parents/carers. Use of the Pastoral base may also be appropriate for any pupils who require an support plan.

*See the revised behaviour policy on the school website.

Hygiene practices

Please remind your children of good hygiene practices including hand washing; Catch it! Bin it! Kill it!; touching their face as little as possible and avoiding physical contact with others. Staff will give regular reminders through related activities once back in school.

Cleaning

The school will follow COVID19 Cleaning of Non-healthcare settings guidance. Regular cleaning of toilets will take place throughout the day. Soap and hand gel will be continually replenished. Tissue bins will be emptied regularly. Any shared resources will be cleaned after use.

PPE (Children / Staff)

Children should not wear PPE as Department for Education guidelines suggest it is unsafe to do so. Children will not be permitted to wear PPE on site. Some staff will wear PPE depending on their duties.

Medical

Pupils who have had a toileting accident should be encouraged to clean themselves and change themselves where possible. The revised Intimate care policy will continue to be followed by staff.

The revised First Aid and Accident policy will continue to be followed by staff.

Symptoms at home

Any pupils with symptoms or symptoms within their household should **not attend school** and should self-isolate in line with the latest government guidance. Anyone with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a change in their sense of smell or taste is asked to immediately report these symptoms and book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you have no internet access.

Children / Staff showing symptoms in school

If a child shows symptoms the office will contact parent/carers to collect the child. While awaiting collection, they will be moved to an Isolation Room with appropriate adult supervision. Isolation Rooms will be deep cleaned after use. Staff will advise parent/carers to immediately book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119.

Confirmed cases of COVID19

If a child or member of staff is confirmed as testing positive for COVID19:

-the individual with Covid will be required to self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

-their household will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

*A child or staff member with a negative test can return to school without a period of self-isolation.

Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - skin-to-skin physical contact with an infected individual.

- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual

- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

*Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.

Policies

The Behaviour policy; Intimate care policy; First aid and accident policy and the Educational visits policy have all been updated to reflect the current situation and are available on the school website.

Access to the site, meetings and communication

Parent/carers **will not** be permitted to access the school building at any time. The school foyer will remain closed until further notice. Meetings will take place remotely over Microsoft Teams or Zoom wherever possible. Communication will continue through email, Tapestry, Marvellous Me, Facebook and phone calls.

PLEASE NOTE ARRANGEMENTS MAY CHANGE PENDING UPDATED GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE.

We look forward to welcoming all children back to school in September. Should the situation change during the summer holidays I will contact you with an update. Have a lovely summer!

Many thanks,

Mr J.M.Armitage B.Ed (Hons); NPQH
Headteacher

