

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

After three weeks of the current government lockdown, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent work you are doing to support your children. Those of you that are working with children at home and keeping them motivated and engaged in the activity's teachers are sending home are doing a fantastic job. Those critical workers and vulnerable pupils' families who are adhering to all of the guidance we have in place when your children are accessing the school are also doing an incredible job of supporting your children and keeping Covid cases in school to a minimum, while also keeping the nation moving.

### Remote Education

I know it is hard and as a parent of two primary age children who are currently working from home, I feel your pain! But please be reassured you are doing a fantastic job! We have tried to make our remote education offer flexible to you so you can adapt it to your child's needs and your own circumstance or working patterns. For more advice on tips for supporting your children at home go to the Curriculum section of the school website and look for Remote Education under the Curriculum Information tab or click on the following link: [Click HERE for the document](#)

If you require access to a laptop or do not have internet access, please let your class teacher or the office know on: [officeadmin@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:officeadmin@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk)

If your child is not in school and you are entitled to Free School Meals you should now be in receipt of a voucher each Friday. If this is not the case please let the office know on: [officeadmin@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:officeadmin@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk)

Almost all parent/carers are now signed up to Tapestry (Nursery and Reception) or Marvellous Me (Year 1 to 6) and this is by far the easiest way for teachers to communicate with you. If you are not signed up, please email your class teacher or the school office and they will let you know what you need to do.

### Critical worker pupils, vulnerable pupils and nursery pupils

I am please to say that we have been able to keep the on site offer as close to our normal curriculum as possible in the circumstances, just like our remote education offer. The children have settled into a routine and are enjoying their learning.

We are receiving more and more requests for pupils to take up a place day by day. I would reiterate the governments advice, "If you are able to stay at home then you should stay at home." Reducing the number of contacts children and staff are having each day with help us all get back to normal as soon as possible.

### Incredible work by parents and staff

I am delighted to be able to tell you that in the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January we saw an 11% increase in the number of pupils across the whole school community who were accessing learning

whether at home or at school. That is a significant improvement after the first full week of lockdown and means that 84% of our children and families are doing all they can to make sure children are still accessing their education. We do not want our children to be left behind because of the current situation.

I would appeal to those parent/carers whose children are in the remaining 16% to do what you can to access the learning offer we have in place and make sure you are contacting class teachers to let them know what you are doing. We are here to provide as much support, reassurance or guidance as you need.

As soon as we know any more about the timescales around schools reopening or any significant changes in advice from the Department of Education I will write with an update.

I hope to see you all as soon as it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely,



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