



Rydal Road
Darlington
DL1 4BH
T: 01325 380784

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W: www.rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, BEd, NPQH
Head Teacher: Mr J Armitage BEd (Hons), NPQH

Wednesday 26th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to say that our dedicated staff are doing an amazing job, following the interruptions of the last 14 months, and all indications are that the children are quickly catching up on their learning. If you are keen to do more at home, please visit the curriculum section of our website and look at each subject's learning journey for activities, places to visit and websites to access covering each unit of work we cover in school.

I can confirm that our current Covid-19 risk assessment arrangements will stay in place after half-term. Once we know more about the June review of a move to Step 4 of the government's plan, I will inform you of any changes in arrangements. That being said, we have had to make some decisions based on the current situation to allow the organisation and planning of a variety of activities over the final six weeks of the school year which are detailed in this letter.

Date for return

We break up for half-term on Friday 28th May and are back at school on Tuesday 8th June for the second half of the summer term.

Contact tracing

Please refer to the letter also attached to this email, or go to the Covid Section of the website, for what to do if your child tests positive for Covid-19 during the Summer half-term holiday and has been in school during the contact period.

Attendance

Our attendance rates since the return to school of all pupils, continue to be above the national average. Please keep this going to the end of the summer term to support staff in our curriculum recovery plans.

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.

Pupils who can't attend school (Self-isolating)

The school will organise a remote education package for any pupils who are unable to attend. We can arrange access to a laptop if required. We can also provide a packed lunch for free school meals pupils.

Term time holidays

Holidays taken in term time can have a very negative impact on a pupil's education, as well as school's attendance statistics and children's learning. Under current regulations, Headteachers may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances', deemed exceptional by only the Headteacher. Therefore, The Rydal Academy does not authorise any term time holidays to ensure the system is fair and equitable. All term time holidays will be referred for a holiday fine to the local authority.

Transport

The school bus **will not be running** until September. The office staff will begin contacting parent/carers who have previously had pupils accessing the bus to check requirements for September. Should you require a place on the school bus for September please contact the office for an application form.

Extra-curricular clubs

Extra-curricular clubs **will not be running** until September. A full list of our extensive extra-curricular club's offer will be published next half-term so you can sign up for the 2021/22 academic year before the end of term.





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Access to the site, meetings and communication

The school foyer will remain closed until further notice.

Reception intake September 2021

We have spaces available for our Reception intake in September 2021. If you are yet to make an application, please contact the school or go to the Darlington Borough Council website.

Reception new starters, September 2021 transition meeting for parent/carers will not take place this year. We will instead send out an information video via email. More information to follow, after half-term. Children will visit the school for half a day on Tuesday 6th July.

Transition into Year 1

Reception parent/carers meeting for transition into Year 1 will not take place this year. We will instead send out an information video via Tapestry. More information to follow, after half-term.

Year 6 transition to Secondary school

All Darlington Secondary schools intend to run face to face transition days on Monday 6th July and Tuesday 7th July pending a number of safety criteria being satisfied. Should this not be the case two days of virtual transition will be provided on the same dates. Secondary schools will contact parents/carers directly with more information.

Annual reports

Annual reports will be emailed out to parent/carers on Friday 2nd July with information on classes for September 2021.

Move up day

We have moved the date of our Move up day due to a change in date of Secondary transition for our current Year 6 pupils. Therefore, our children will now spend the afternoon with their class teachers for September on Tuesday 6th July.

Sports day

The children will take part in a Covid friendly version of Sports day on Tuesday 13th July, unfortunately **parent/carers will not be able to attend** this year's event.

Year 6 graduation

The Year 6 graduation will take place in school on Wednesday 14th July, unfortunately **parent/carers will not be able to attend** this year's event. More information will follow for Year 6 parents in due course as we explore the possibility of streaming the event.

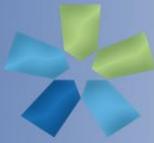
Year 6 leavers production

Unfortunately, due to restrictions around minimising contact between classes and the necessity to make up for lost schooling over the last 14 months, the children will not be participating in a leavers performance this year.

Annual Achievement Awards

The Annual Achievement Awards will take the same format as last year with awards being announced through daily video links over the final weeks of the term.





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Staffing update

Goodbye and good luck to Mrs Coad (Teaching Assistant), Miss Edgerley (Teaching Assistant), Miss McGuire (Attendance Officer), Mrs Alexander (Personal Development and Family Well-being Advisor), Mr Longstaff (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Trowles (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Roberts (Teaching Assistant) who leave us this week. Thank you for your hard work and support.

Congratulations to Miss Edgar, Miss Yeomans, Miss Appleby and Miss Timney who will be staying with us in a teaching capacity in September.

Final message

On behalf of the staff, governors and directors I thank you once again for your patience and support over an incredibly challenging fourteen months. Let's hope we can look towards blue skies during half-term as a sign of more promising times ahead and cautiously plan for something much closer to our normal school offer in September.

Yours in public service,

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

