



# The Ryde School

Pleasant Rise, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5DR

01707 267333 | [www.ryde.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ryde.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Sue Thompson

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now entering the third full week back and all the staff have been really impressed at how positively the children have returned to school and how quickly they are settling into school life again. The two-week project based on the text 'Here We Are' has been very successful. We are having a celebration of the children's work in school this week. You will be able to see some of your child's classwork on their class blog.

The routines we have in place are working well and the children and staff are well practised at these now. Children wash their hands on entering building and hand sanitise when they leave their classroom. Children's tables and touch points are sanitised regularly through the day as are sinks and toilets.

At lunch time we now have two MSAs/TAs for every class to ensure tables, touch points, sinks and toilets are kept clean at lunch time and children are used to washing their hands before they eat and sanitising afterwards. Some of the classes now eat their lunch in their classrooms and they have adapted to this very quickly.

We are very fortunate at The Ryde that we have such large grounds for the number of children we have and so we have been able to zone the outdoor spaces so each class has an allocated area. These are rotated every week. The children have adjusted to this very quickly and playtimes are full of fun and laughter. The children have been very creative in the games they have invented to maintain social distancing where possible.

We feel that the school is as safe a place as possible for the children and staff during this COVID-19 pandemic, and we will be working very hard to maintain this.

## **To increase the safety of our wider community we are making some changes.**

**Firstly**, we will be slightly altering the staggered starts and finishes to the school day from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. **Each class will receive a text message** with their drop off and pick up times. The main changes will be: Reception class, now they have settled into school, will need to start school a little earlier, Year 3 pick up will be earlier so the Year 6s, who mostly walk home on their own, do not have to walk through the Year 3 parents, and there will be a bigger gap between Year 4 and Year 5 pick up so that there is not a big gathering of parents at the gate. We hope these measures will reduce the number of parents that gather at the school gates at any one time.

**Secondly**, please parents, to help keep everyone safe, I would ask that only **one adult** drop off and pick up so as to reduce the number of people at the school. Also please do not come early for your pick up time as this will help reduce numbers of people at the school gates. It is very difficult for people to walk along the pavement when there is a crowd of parents waiting.



**Thirdly**, please can parents wear a face covering to protect the staff and other parents. Thank you to those parents who do wear a face covering.

**Finally**, following the COVID-19 update yesterday, we have taken the decision to cancel the planned face to face parent evenings next week. Instead staff will either talk to you using Zoom or Teams or will contact you by phone. More details about this will follow later this week.

On another matter, birthday sweets are really important to children and they love to share with their friends on their birthday. To reduce the risk of passing on any infection we are suggesting that unopened packets of fun size sweets are sent into school in a carrier bag. These will be opened by staff and put in a tray for each child to take one on their way home.

If you have any concerns, please do contact the school office. I will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Thompson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Yours sincerely" text.