



The Ryde School

Pleasant Rise, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5DR

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Headteacher: Mrs Sue Thompson

Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have finally reached the end of what has been a very strange summer term. I would like to thank you for your kind words and co-operation over this difficult time. We are working hard to ensure the school is ready, and measures are in place, so children can return to a welcoming and safe environment in September.

Over the last two days the staff have been working very hard moving furniture and resources back to their right places. Teachers and teaching assistants have begun working to make their classrooms welcoming and ready for the children in September.

Your child's school report will be posted to you this year and should arrive next week. Included with the report is a transition booklet for your child from their new teacher. A welcome video has also been made by your child's teacher and you will be receiving the link to view this next week too.

Due to the children missing so much learning over the summer term, we have decided to move our occasional day from October 2nd 2020 to June 7th 2021. This will minimise further disruption to children's learning. We will keep our planned Inset days as these will be useful to staff for further training and planning to help children catch up.

Our school COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Policy are currently being reviewed. Some parents will be reviewing this next Tuesday and I will write to you again with the outcome of this along with a copy of the Risk Assessment, Policy and comments made during the meeting.

I have attached a copy of our uniform policy as this has been updated. You will notice that culottes and pinafores have been added as some children prefer to wear these instead of traditional trousers or skirts. A fleece has also been added for a very specific reason. This is in **addition** to a jumper or cardigan. From September two top windows will be open in every classroom to aid ventilation and to keep the air fresher in classrooms. The fleeces are an additional layer of clothing for children who may feel a slight draught on their shoulders and arms because of this. It is planned that children's fleeces will remain in the classroom on the backs of their chairs.

The PTA met with me last week to discuss funding for some projects that need to in place by September. The COVID-19 measures and precautions we have had to put in place have cost the school many thousands of pounds (none of which can be claimed back from the government). They have agreed to fund the installation of external washing stations for the children to wash their hands when entering the building. I am currently talking to contractors with the aim that they are in place by September. The PTA are also looking to find ways to raise money to help the school buy additional resources, as there will be far less sharing of resources in school now. I am sure you will hear from the PTA in due course.



We will be operating a staggered start and end to the school day and I will contact you soon with the start and end times for your child's class.

Over the summer break I will keep you informed if any further changes need to be made for the children returning to school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Proctor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' at the beginning.