



The Ryde School

Pleasant Rise, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5DR

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Headteacher: Mrs Sue Thompson

Thursday 4th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well.

It has been a very busy time in school over the last few weeks as we have been preparing classrooms for the return of Nursery and Reception classes this week. We have followed the government's advice and divided each class into two groups, each with their own two adults. This has generated a lot of work for staff as classrooms have had to be completely reorganised and a lot of furniture removed. Resources have been shared out among the groups, so each group has a variety of toys and equipment.

The nursery classroom and outdoor area are large enough to be divided into two so children will still have enough space to use. For reception class we have used Class 1 classroom as well as the existing Reception classroom for the two groups and the outdoor area has been divided into two areas as well. This will give all the children a good amount of space to play and learn in.

Also we have been preparing for Year 1 to return to school next week. This has been more challenging as these children need to have desks and chairs. Following the government's guidelines that each child needs 2.3 square metres to socially distance, this has meant that Year 1 will need to be divided into three groups, using the Class 2, Class 3 and Class 4 classrooms. Each of these groups will have two adults.

We have been pleased to support key workers by looking after their children throughout the lockdown and continue to do so. However, as more parents are returning to work, we are caring for more key worker children and from next week this group will be divided into two groups as well. One group for years 2 and 3 children and the other groups for years 4, 5 and 6 children. Each of these groups will also have two adults. These groups will use Class 5 and Class 6 classrooms.

At the present time it looks as if we will not have either staffing capacity or the classroom space to invite Year 6 back to school just yet. We are working on a solution for this.

The children returning to school will have a planned curriculum taught to them by their teachers. The key worker children are completing Oak National Academy lessons in school and have art, technology and science activities in the afternoons.

For the children not able to return to school, I would recommend that they continue with the Oak National Academy or BBC Bitesize daily lessons. They are of a very good quality.

We do email the Picture News resources to all families every week. These are also very good.

It is very positive that so many children are still logging in to Purple Mash. All teachers now have a class teaching commitment in school, but will continue to monitor this.



I understand how hard it must be for the children in Classes 2, 3, 4 and 5 and their parents and families. All the staff in school are sad that they have not had any contact with these children and we all miss them. We hope that in the not too distant future they too will be welcomed back into school.

It is difficult for us to see what will happen in the future, and this is both worrying and unsettling for everyone. We will continue to support all of our families and if you have any concerns please do contact us either by phone: 01707 267333 or by email: admin@ryde.herts.sch.uk .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.