



The Ryde School

Pleasant Rise, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5DR

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Headteacher: Mrs Sue Thompson

Thursday 6th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well and are enjoying the sunshine.

We are continuing with our planning to ensure all children can safely return to school in September.

We are expecting a further government update in the next week, and if necessary we will adjust our planning.

I am grateful to the parents that attended last Thursday's meeting to read and discuss the COVID-19 Risk Assessment and the COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy. The Risk Assessment needed no amendments. Some amendments and more details have been added to the policy. It was a very positive meeting and I am grateful for the views and opinions of the parents that attended.

Everybody read the COVID 19 Health and Safety policy and the Risk Assessment for School Activities during COVID 19 outbreak – opening from September 2020. Questions were then taken.

Q1 Will Reception class parents still receive the introductory workshops?

A1 Yes, it is planned that the programme will run by the class teacher and Ms Burns delivering them in a larger space to allow for social distancing.

Q2 As the Government has asked for minimal sharing of resources will children still be able to take books home?

A2 The book bags will be changed in the same way as has been implemented since the 1st June opening. The system for changing books has been working well. The books are changed on a set day and the returned books are quarantined. Library books will not be going home at this stage.

Q3 Is swimming going to be reviewed?

A3 At present there are problems with swimming: multiple groups use the pool and its facilities, adults use the facility at the same time as the children, coach transport is needed and adds another layer of complexity. The decision not to go will be reviewed on a regular basis.



Q4 Have you had to recruit extra cleaners?

A4 We have a very good cleaner who has always kept the school clean. We are looking at getting an extra cleaner for Nursery as this will free up Fiona to clean the school when more children return. Also classroom cleaning will need more time as food is going to be eaten in the classroom.

Q5 Are school meals still going to be provided?

A5 Yes, the full menu will be provided including the packed lunch option. The kitchen staff have worked hard throughout.

Q6 How will the playground equipment be allocated?

A6 Reception have an area outside their classroom.

Equipment in the main school grounds will be allocated out on a rota basis. The large square apparatus will be out of bounds for the foreseeable future.

Q7 As referenced on P12 will the children be sharing the dustpan and brush to clear up?

A7 The TA and MSA will support the children in clearing up and the equipment will be wiped down by the adult.

Q8 Has a Governor representative looked through the paperwork?

A8 The Governor responsible for COVID 19 was invited to attend as he has not been in contact we are assuming he is on holiday.

Mrs Thompson explained details about the wash stations that are going to be installed for children to use as they enter and exit the building. These details will be added to the policy.

Q9 Will the staggered start be by class or surname?

A9 Mrs Thompson explained how Year groups will enter the building.

For the first 2 days Reception will start at 9.00 am. This will hopefully be the least busy session and will allow staff to support reluctant starters.

For the first 2 days parents will be able to take children around and see where the children enter and wash their hands.

It is understood that some children will be worried about coming in. If children need longer to settle to new routine, they will be supported to do so.

Q10 What will happen with pick up if you have more than one child?

A10 This is more problematic. The first child will have to wait with the teacher until the second is ready.

Q11 If you have to bring a sibling with you is that ok?

A11 Yes, but the child must either be in a push chair or at the side of the parent.

Q12 Will stay and play happen?

A12 We plan for this to happen once the school is settled and we can allocate a space and resources to the provision.

Q13 Will the system for volunteering with the Nursery and Reception classes be possible?

A13 Yes, reading in the Nursery and Reception should be possible.

Q14 Will Forest School continue?

A14 Yes, Ms Burns will continue to offer this provision on a rota basis.

Q15 Will the children be able to have a good run outside if the playground is zoned?

A15 Yes, playtime will be staggered so this should be possible.

Q16 Can children bring their own sanitiser?

A16 No, due to Health and Safety guidelines children should be supervised using sanitiser. Sanitiser will be readily available in all areas of the school.

Q17 How will parents be able to communicate with the class teacher particularly when there has been a problem?

A17 Parents will be encouraged to communicate via phone or email through the office admin email. This will allow us to ensure that all concerns are known about and addressed. Once drop off/pick off is slicker there may be possibilities to talk to staff about concerns/worries. Children will have increased opportunities to talk about concerns in school. We are waiting for further Government advice about this.

Q18 Will children use the toilets at break time?

A18 Yes, the TA will go with the group and wipe down after use.

Q19 Can volunteers help with extra duties?

A19 Yes, but they will need to be allocated to a specific group.

Q20 Will the library be in use?

A20 We will find a way to use it. At present we have a problem with the amount of furniture that we need to store in it that has been removed from classrooms.

Q21 What will happen with classroom resources like crayons and felt tips?

A21 Children will have individual stationery packs provided with the things that they use often. Other equipment which is used less often will be shared and cleaned between use. Each child will have their own tray on their desk.

Q22 Will children have their own space/desk?

A22 Yes, but they will have opportunities to move around so they can be next to different children in the class. They will have opportunities to learn outside the classroom. They will need waterproofs and wellies in school. More information will be sent to parents/carers about this.

Q23 Can the PTA send letters home in the book bags?

A23 There will be ways to communicate with parents including:
Boards outside
Website
Email
Letters being left for 72 hours in the class and children pick them up on way out.

Mrs Thompson informed the group that Year 3 need to have top windows, that can open, installed. These will be fitted before September.

The INSET day will be used for COVID 19 training for all staff. We will also look at mental health and wellbeing and the marking and assessment policy.

There will be a Parent's evening in the 4th full week back.

Q24 What will happen if someone has suspected coronavirus?

A24 The school will contact PHE and follow the guidelines.

Q25 Can it be made clear to parents that they need to inform school if someone is unwell at the weekend?

A25 Yes, parents will be informed of the need to be transparent about illness.

Q26 Has Studybugs been updated with new statements to report illness?

A26 We will need to check this.

Q27 Is school looking at backup remote learning in the case of lockdowns or quarantining?

A27 This is difficult but we will need to have something in place for September. We will be able to look at the Oak National Academy and select lessons and tasks to match classroom learning. We will not video lessons as this would be difficult to support children's wellbeing. Any videoing of class lessons could be negative as it could pick up children's responses as well as teacher's reminders about good behaviour possibly to individual children.

Q28 Is the Oak National Academy still going to run next year?

A28 Yes they have committed to a further year.

There are still many other aspects of planning for September to complete, and I will be contacting you through the summer to keep you updated.

These will include:

Information about staggered beginnings and ends to the day

Protocols for entering and leaving the school site

The installation of external sinks

The installation of two ventilation windows in Class 3

We are expecting a government update in the next week regarding the cleaning of school premises. We will of course read this and make any adaptations that are necessary for a safe return to school.

We expect there to be more government announcements before September and we will keep you updated about these and of any changes we will have to make.

Yours sincerely

Sue Thompson

Mrs Sue Thompson
Headteacher

These are the new sinks that are being fitted this week.

New sink at Class 2 and 3



New sink at back door



New sink at the back of the building