



# 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

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

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

I am sure, like me, you are reassured by the PHE research published this week. One finding has been that “*children play a minor role in transmission of the virus and schools play a minor role in transmission of the virus*”. <https://www.tes.com/news/very-little-evidence-coronavirus-spread-schools> . This link is certainly worth a read.

Information we have received about the cleaning of schools suggests that contact areas be cleaned twice a day as a minimum. Our COVID-19 Health and safety Policy states that ‘*An enhanced cleaning schedule will be in place throughout the site*’. All touch points, desks, toilet areas etc. will be cleaned after each use – which is far more frequent than the twice a day recommendation. Our policy is robust and is at least meeting requirements, but often exceeding them.

The external sinks are now fully operational and ready for use in September.

The above research, together with all the measures we are taking at The Ryde, will ensure that our school will be as safe a place as possible for your children in September. It is so important that every child returns to school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We have planned activities to help children adjust to school and settle in over the first two days and two full weeks – if children miss these opportunities it will be even harder for them to settle in when they do return to school.

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

All children’s desks have been fitted with runners so that every child will have their own tray to keep stationery and books. We have a stationery kit for every child, which is named, that contains: pencil, handwriting pen, whiteboard pen, editing pen (for older children), pencil sharpener, small ruler, large ruler and a set of 12 colouring pencils. Other equipment such as scissors and glue sticks are used occasionally and will be issued as needed.



Every child’s desk has been fitted with a tray.



Every child will have their own named stationery kit.

There are still some 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 two ventilation windows in Class 3

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.

I would like to say a big thank you to the PTA. They have been very supportive and some parents have helped Ray (our site manager) attach the runners to the children's desks. The PTA are also planning a working party to help complete maintenance work in the school grounds to save the school the expense of hiring contractors. As you can imagine the financial cost to the school of COVID-19 has been huge. Tens of thousands of pounds have needed to be spent and unfortunately we will not be able to claim back any of this money from the government. So any saving we can make will really help the school and the provision we can offer your children.

To help with lunch times, I still need to recruit up to 4 midday supervisors (MSA). The roles are for one and half hours a day. Each MSA will be attached to a class and will supervise the children eating their lunch and their playtime afterwards. If you, or you know of anyone who, might be interested please contact the school: [admin@ryde.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ryde.herts.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Sue Thompson  
Headteacher