



Raysfield Primary

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NEWSLETTER – JANUARY

Thursday 7th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all; it's not quite the new year we all had planned, but it is one we are going to make special for our children.

Firstly, thank you for being patient and giving us a few days to reorganise our school. We are now in a confident position to clarify arrangements for remote learning from Monday 11th January, on site learning and clarify our position in response to Key Workers.

Remote Learning

We are very proud of the remote learning offer we will be providing for your children during this lockdown. Our teachers have been working very hard to prepare and record lessons, which the children will be able to access. They will also have three 'live lessons' a week – there is a new timetable for this as we can appreciate this would not work if it was at the same time for every child.

For us, remote learning is about maintaining and consolidating the skills your children already have so none of our children will be behind when we return. We know nothing will replace the quality of having their teacher support them in person and we know lots of you are juggling working from home, managing more than one child and keeping every one safe in your own families – **YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB!** I sincerely mean this, we, those of us where it is **absolutely essential** to come to work, are very grateful for what you are doing. **At Raysfield, our mantra remains the same – Do what you can! Thank you.**

The remote learning offer sent out at the beginning of the week is the offer we put together in September for a Bubble Closure, and we have now amended this for a whole school closure, which will be as follows:

Daily uploads			
		When	Platform
Welcome Video	Recorded	Daily 9:00	Class Dojo <i>(please do send an email to office@raysfield.org.uk if you need access)</i>
English	Recorded	Daily	Google Classroom You will receive a daily English lesson with a follow up task. The video will be about 10/15 minutes long followed by a task. YEAR 1 and Reception will receive daily phonics in order to maintain their skills.
Maths	Recorded	Daily	Google Classroom You will receive a daily maths lesson with a follow up task. The video will be about 10/15 minutes long followed by a task.

Live Lesson Well-being check-in	Live via Teams 15 – 20mins	3 times per week (see rota)	<p>Teams</p> <p>This lesson will be the opportunity for your children to interact with one another and their teacher which will help with their mental health and well-being plus their motivation to learn at home. This will be fun and engaging.</p> <p>It may include things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show and Tell: Bring along your favourite book / toy and share with the group • Big Question • New skills: play instrument / favourite 'party trick' • Quiz • Treasure hunt: Find 3 things beginning with the letter P etc
Big Maths	Recorded	Weekly / Daily	<p>Google Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a weekly video • There will be daily tasks

There will be weekly tasks set for children and these include:			
Please upload these lessons and tasks on Monday under a topic heading 'Weekly Tasks'			
Phonics & Spelling	Recorded YR-2 Y3 where needed	Weekly	<p>Google Classroom</p> <p>Phonics: Daily phonics lessons & links to online phonic games / activities.</p> <p>Spelling: Weekly spellings for children to complete (e.g. Look / cover / write / check) with links to websites which explain the spelling rules. Children will not be required to hand these in, but they might form part of the work throughout the week.</p>
Times Tables	Google Classroom Post	Weekly	<p>Google Classroom</p> <p>TT Rockstars</p> <p>Set a times tables battle for your class / year group</p>
Reading	Google Classroom Post	Weekly	<p>Big Cat & Reading</p> <p>A video how to access Big Cat books will be posted on Class Dojo this week. This is for our children in Key Stage One and Early Years mainly, but those requiring additional support in Key Stage 2 can also access.</p> <p>Please try and read with your child at least 5 times per week.</p> <p>There will be a reading task given to children on Google Classroom</p>

LIVE LESSON TIMETABLE				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1:15 – 1:30	Year R	Year 1	Year 4	Year 4
1:35 – 1:55		Year R & 6	Year 1	Year 6
2:00 – 2:25	Year 6	Year 3	Year R & 3	Year 1
2:30 – 2:45	Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2
2:50 – 3:10	Year 4	Year 5	Year 5	Year 5

I am sure you will all agree this is an extensive remote learning offer, and it has been our priority this time to support the majority of our parents who are working from home. Our teachers are also working from home, and your child's class teacher will only be required to attend site for one week during this term. **Therefore, I can say with confidence the best educational offer is to those who are able to stay at home.**

Teaching staff will be working their hours to prepare, deliver and respond to work. Please do not expect a response after 4pm because they will be using their time to prepare, plan and record the following day. In addition to this can I also confirm the only access to Google Classroom will be via your child's login and not a parent email address.

I know this will not be easy to read for those who **MUST** send their children to school to join the Key Worker bubble and on this subject, I feel it is imperative to provide further clarification:

The national lockdown's primary aim is to reduce the spread of COVID 19, which is currently overwhelming our country and local area. As you know from the Government's announcement on Monday we had no choice but to close our school. Since then we have needed to make very tough, but safe decisions to only allow places at our school for vulnerable children and those of critical workers. Further guidance from our local authority was provided to support us in doing this:

*The reason schools are now **only** open to critical workers and vulnerable pupils, is that rates of infection have increased and therefore schools have been asked to limit the numbers of Children and Young People (CYP) to those where it is **absolutely essential**.*

*If a CYP has two critical worker parents, then they will require a place, equally if a child has a single parent who is also a critical worker they will also require a place. Where there are two adults/parents within the household, where only one is a critical worker but the other is not, then if the one who is not a critical worker **is able** to provide childcare then this is the preference; as this can then reduce the numbers of CYP in attendance, minimising risk of any virus transmission.*

In the previous lockdown we did not breach the expectation that only 10% of the school community should attend. This time we are already at 15% of our school community, raising numbers to 'just about manageable' alongside the remote learning package. We have received more than double the amount of requests from last time. Given the unprecedented response we have received in these categories, it is deep regret we cannot accept all requests.

Key reasons which have informed our decision include:

- The safety of our pupils and staff is paramount. We must maintain this in order to provide onsite '**absolutely essential**' provision, which directly supports the frontline staff responding to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- The remote learning strategy is now our legal duty, unlike previous lockdown. We are committed to prioritising this as a quality experience for our children's education. Children attending school will also take part in these lessons to ensure all children maintain their skills.
- The greater number of children in school directly impacts on our ability to provide remote learning and therefore we need to keep numbers as low as possible in order to provide quality support and feedback.
- To increase numbers even further on site i.e. to one parent critical worker families would directly conflict with the need to reduce the transmission of the virus. **We do not have the capacity to increase our numbers and remain safe.**

However upsetting and frustrating parents may have found our decision to refuse their child a place currently, it is not one school has taken lightly. The decision has been taken to keep our staff, pupils and all of their families safe. The situation is under constant review and we are doing all we can to accommodate all requests, but at present there are no more spaces available. **Therefore, I kindly request that no more Key Worker applications are sent into school, unless you are in urgent need of a space.**

REPORTING ATTENDANCE

It is imperative that you still report any illness related to COVID 19. Please could you do this via email to office@raysfield.org.uk If your child/children are attending school in the Key Worker group, but they are absent please make sure you have phoned the site and left a message on the absence line or emailed office@raysfield.org.uk giving the reason they are absent. You will be required to do this for everyday they are absent so we know where the children are.

I understand that every one of you may be feeling vulnerable, for one reason or another at this time and I promise we, at Raysfield, will always do our best to support you and your children. We know this is a challenge, but together we will be okay.

At this very difficult time, may I thank you for your ongoing support

Best wishes

Mrs Claire Hill and Team Raysfield.