

Headteacher: Mr D Childs

4th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I cannot express how wonderful it has been to see all of our children and families this week. The familiar sound of their laughter has filled our classrooms and corridors this week and has made us all realise how fortunate we all are to educate such amazing young people.

I would also like to thank you all for adapting to new school routines so quickly. Our start and end of day timings are very ambitious and are designed to maximise the time children have in school. In order for us to keep to our planned timings, we need to make sure that our morning and afternoons are as quick as possible. To help with this, please make sure that next week:

- Only one parent/adult on the playground
- Please socially distance on the playground at the end of the day
- Please do not gather in groups outside the school at the end of the day
- Younger siblings are kept with parents on the playground. With our car park gates being opened, we all need to make sure that children are safe on site at all times.

If we are unable to send the children home at the end of the day without social distancing, we will need to change our timings so that our school bubbles are collected earlier in the afternoon to allow for everyone to leave the site safely. Ideally, we would prefer to not have to take this option as it will reduce the amount of time children are at school and also mean longer waiting times if you are collecting siblings from different bubbles.

Recovery Plan & Step-up September

At Ryarsh, we have been working extremely hard over the summer to make sure that we are able to bring the children back to school successfully. To plan for this, we have created a recovery plan which shows how we will help reconnect our children, reignite their learning and rebuild their resilience. We want to be as transparent as possible with you in everything that we do so I have attached our recovery plan to this parent mail. We have branded this period of time 'Step-up September' as we feel it is the time when our whole community will be 'stepping up' to help make sure our children feel that sense of emotional safety and sense of belonging which is so important to their future successes.

Home Learning

Towards the end of last year and the start of this year, we have been reviewing our approach to home learning. Using research on what makes highly effective home learning, we have developed a new approach which will launch next Friday September 11th. In order to tell you more about this, I will be hosting 2 virtual sessions on Tuesday 8th September after school. During these sessions, we will also be discussing and sharing ideas on creating the kind of environment at home that helps to support home learning. To join, please use one of the following links:

Time: Sep 8, 2020 04:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89505411087?pwd=STZCZWJVU2FMR3IJMmg0M1NHR3c1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 895 0541 1087

Passcode: 3Q1mGx

Time: Sep 8, 2020 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87595738511?pwd=U3NNUIZkUUlyMEEx5N1loNWF5bzI3QT09>

Meeting ID: 875 9573 8511

Passcode: 0bgH82

Today, your child will be bringing home their first home learning project. This will be a whole school project and we will be asking the children to create their own 'happiness boxes'. Please check your child's home learning book or look on the google classroom pages for more details.

School Display

One of the actions that we will be taking to help our children strengthen our sense of emotional safety and connectedness throughout the school is to finish our display which is titled 'different families, same love'. In order to do this, we would like you to send in a family photograph to us. We will then put them in a frame and these will be displayed down one of our corridors. Please feel free to either send the photograph in with your child or email them to me on daniel.childs@ryarsh.kent.sch.uk

Hand Care (sanitisers & moisturisers)

Increased hand hygiene is a really important part of reducing the risk of transmitting any illnesses. Over the past couple of days, we have spent a great deal of time teaching the children the importance of this. Since we have returned to school, new information has come to light and, as a result, we need to adapt our approach to hand washing.

Children do not need to bring in their own hand sanitiser. We have plenty in school and the children have been washing their hands frequently. If a child has a specific medical need and requires different hand sanitiser, you will need to fill in a medical plan for your child and we will make sure that any specific hand sanitiser prescribed for your child is kept in a safe place in the school rather than kept in individual trays or bags.

Previously, we had stated that children could bring in their own moisturiser. However, we need to change this due to the allergies of the children in our school. As a result, we will now provide each classroom with nut free moisturising cream and will provide this for any children suffering from dry or sore skin. As with hand sanitiser, if your child requires specific moisturiser due to a medical need, you will need to fill in a medical plan and bring this to the office.

Emails

At Ryarsh, we place great importance in working alongside our parents to make sure that we are able to do our very best for every single child in our school. We fully appreciate that it takes a community to raise a child and know that strong relationships between school and parents are a vital part of this. Due to current climate, we are unable to meet with parents before or after school and this is something that clearly goes against the way would all prefer to communicate. However, it is necessary to try and keep our community as safe as possible.

In order to compensate for the lack of face to face meetings, we will be utilising emails more than ever. Should you have any concerns, please email the class teacher. Following this, we will endeavour to respond to you within 48 hours, using emails, telephone meetings or zoom meetings.

As you can imagine, we are very busy at the moment and working hard to establish new routines, systems and ways of working. It is very important to us that our staff working conditions promote a high level of mental health and wellbeing. We know that the next few months will be full of many different challenges for us all and we need to be in a position to be able to deal with the challenges we face as effectively as possible. To do this, we will be asking you to please respect the following guidelines when it comes to email communication:

- Please email staff between the hours of 7am and 5pm on working days. Any emails received out of these hours will be responded to at an appropriate time.
- Include all relevant people on the email, especially where there is a job-share.
- If you have any concerns you wish to discuss, please request a telephone or zoom meeting so we can address your concerns more effectively.
- If the matter is an emergency please call the school or contact me on daniel.childs@ryarsh.kent.sch.uk

You will also find similar details in your home school agreement regarding the nature of email communication.

PE

Next week, the children will be taking part in PE sessions. Please send them to school wearing their PE kits. The children will be carrying out indoor and outdoor PE on the following days:

Day	Hall Slot (1.30-2.30) ONE PM SESSION PER DAY ONLY	Outside Slot (1.30-2.30)
Monday		YEAR 6 - TENNIS (Playground) YEAR 4 - FOOTBALL (Field)
Tuesday	YEAR 2 - GYMANSTICS - 1.15-2.15	YEAR 5 – TAG RUGBY (Field) YEAR 4 – DANCE (HAKKA) 2.15-3.15 (Field)
Wednesday	YEAR 1 - DANCE	YEAR 2 – HOCKEY (Playground)
Thursday	YEAR 6 - DANCE	YEAR 1 – FOOTBALL (Field) YEAR 3 – OAA (Playground/Field/Forest Area)
Friday		YEAR 3 - KWIK CRICKET (Field)

Ordinarily, we would carry out indoor PE wearing shorts and a t-shirt. As the autumn months draw closer, temperatures will decrease and we certainly would not expect you to send your child to school wearing a t-shirt and pair of shorts. In this instance, please feel free to send your child to school wearing their t shirt and shorts underneath their PE jumper and jogging bottoms.

We are currently awaiting a delivery of new PE kit so should be able to fulfil any orders once it has arrived. In the meantime, if you do not have any PE kit for your child, please send them in wearing appropriate clothing for their PE session.

Meet the Teacher

We are delighted to let you know that we will be hosting our meet the teacher events during the week beginning Monday 14th September. These events will happen virtually using zoom. Further details will be provided next week.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mr Childs and the rest of the team at Ryarsh Primary School