

**Headteacher: Mr D Childs**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your response to my letter on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Over the past two days, I have received a great deal of feedback about how much safer it feels at the end of the day. Your efforts in helping us achieve this are greatly appreciated.

### **Covid19 - Safety Update**

We are frequently reviewing our school approach to ensure that our community our kept safe. Following our reviews, we would like to make one key change to the start and end of the day. From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, we would like to encourage all of our parents to wear a face mask at the start and end of the school day.

We appreciate that it is very difficult to walk down the pathways outside of the school whilst maintaining social distancing. By asking parents to wear face masks, we feel as though this would provide an additional safety measure in order to help keep our community safe. We do understand that some of you will not be able to wear any type of face coverings. We will not be stopping parents from entering the school site if they are not wearing a face mask, but feel now is the right time to encourage the use of face masks in the school playground due to the recent increase in confirmed cases of Covid19.

We would also like to provide the following reminders:

- Only one parent to drop off and collect
- Please stick to allocated timings
- Please keep younger siblings with you to ensure that bubbles do not mix

Guidance in schools is changing frequently at the moment so we have to ensure that everyone in our community has the most up to date information. This will help everyone know what to do in the event of different scenarios. In order to support our community, we have produced a 2 page summary of what to do in different situations. It will be attached to this letter and we hope that you find it useful.

### **School Display**

Many thanks to those of you that have sent in some amazing family photographs. We are in the process of printing them out. Please do keep them coming so we can create an amazing wall full of family photographs.

### **Emails**

I would also like to thank you for following our new email guidelines. Many members of staff have already commenting on this and would like to also express their gratitude for the way we are now receiving emails between the times of 07:00 and 18:00.

We do appreciate that many of you may have particular shift patterns that could make this difficult. In this instance, we would suggest that you compose the email, save it and then send it to us during the recommended times. Alternatively, please call us on the school phone and leave a message and we will respond within 48 hours.

## Home Learning

We are very excited to be launching our new home learning approach today.

For us, the process of changing our approach to home learning began almost a year ago. Over the past 12 months, we have carried out a number of actions such as:

- Liaising with other schools
- Reading research articles on the impact of homework
- Using feedback from the staff
- Holding parent forums at the start of 2020 and utilising feedback from parents

In your child's book today (and on the google classroom page), you will find the new homework sheet, along with some parental guidance. This parental guidance is similar to what was discussed at our parent workshop on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

You will notice that the task sheet is split into two sections: daily challenges and curriculum challenges.

As explained in the parental guidance sheet, the daily tasks are for children to try and complete in short bursts, as often as possible. The research shows us that this is a more impactful way for children to carry out home learning. There is no expectation that children need to complete all of these challenges every single day. We appreciate that every family situation is different and one of the most important factors of home learning is that it has to work for your family. Please think of these activities as 'small but often' at a time that suits you and your child. You will notice that the majority of these tasks are exactly the same as they have been in previous years such as spellings, timetables and reading. The only difference is that we are now providing more guidance and using more online learning tools to support this. The most significant change in the daily challenges is that we will be setting maths activities for the children to complete on mathletics. This replaces the maths worksheets that would have previously been provided for home learning.

The curriculum challenges can be set for any subject. It will be a menu of activities and we would like the children to complete one of the activities from this menu. We wanted to open up our home learning to all areas of the curriculum with a focus on better quality tasks that will be more engaging for the children.

At the end of the term, we will be reviewing our approach to home learning to make any improvements. What we do know about homework is that it is impossible to find an approach that suits all families. We have tried to introduce a way that allows more flexibility for families, engages the children more and ultimately, supports their learning more effectively. We will be inviting feedback from parents at the end of the term as part of our review.

## Extended Schools

We are delighted to let you know that we will be providing both breakfast and tea for children attending extended schools from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. For breakfast, we will be providing cereal, fruit and yoghurt. For tea, we will provide a simple tea of sandwiches/rolls/wraps etc. All meals will be prepared in the hall in order for us to maintain the same level of supervision. If your child has any specific dietary requirements that the extended schools team need to be aware of, please contact Mrs Tye (our extended schools supervisor) on [Geraldine.tye@ryarth.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Geraldine.tye@ryarth.kent.sch.uk).

### Meet the teacher

We are delighted to be offering virtual meet the teacher sessions on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September (Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September for Koala Class). During this session, teachers will be providing key information about the class. Following these sessions, class newsletters will be sent on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Please find the links below for the virtual meetings:

Dolphin Class Sep 16, 2020 03:30 PM	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99854082438?pwd=S0FoUDIBL2p6cmdqc29WaFM0c1dTUT09">https://zoom.us/j/99854082438?pwd=S0FoUDIBL2p6cmdqc29WaFM0c1dTUT09</a> Meeting ID: 998 5408 2438 Passcode: vTk9XP
Seahorse Class Sep 16, 2020 04:00 PM	<a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75916656803?pwd=amZ6ZDg3Wkg3OFFodFI4Q3RBbHN0QT09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75916656803?pwd=amZ6ZDg3Wkg3OFFodFI4Q3RBbHN0QT09</a> Meeting ID: 759 1665 6803 Passcode: 8qFN9h
Penguin Class Sep 16, 2020 04:00 PM	<a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76812688821?pwd=akloRmhqOHQ1QmEvT1gwMnhMcHZIZz09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76812688821?pwd=akloRmhqOHQ1QmEvT1gwMnhMcHZIZz09</a> Meeting ID: 768 1268 8821 Passcode: u1PDZa
Lion Class Sep 16, 2020 04:20 PM	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82294294378?pwd=bmNOeEZYS2pZdFIFU1ZlYkxYMzNzUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82294294378?pwd=bmNOeEZYS2pZdFIFU1ZlYkxYMzNzUT09</a> Meeting ID: 822 9429 4378 Passcode: T5tN1i
Koala Class Sep 15, 2020 04:00 PM	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/95343943314?pwd=Q1JzQlI0cXlyZlZybzlyWXI5UzhsZz09">https://zoom.us/j/95343943314?pwd=Q1JzQlI0cXlyZlZybzlyWXI5UzhsZz09</a> Meeting ID: 953 4394 3314 Passcode: WH6FMU
Leopard Class Sep 16, 2020 04:40 PM	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://zoom.us/j/92366583907?pwd=OEIwU2k4RVFISUireVdXb1l6UIE0dz09">https://zoom.us/j/92366583907?pwd=OEIwU2k4RVFISUireVdXb1l6UIE0dz09</a> Meeting ID: 923 6658 3907 Passcode: PRqa86
Orang-utan Sep 16,2020 04:40 PM	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86025087300?pwd=eDlocHJldm9qNmpsYmtMYldqZHVIQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86025087300?pwd=eDlocHJldm9qNmpsYmtMYldqZHVIQT09</a> Meeting ID: 860 2508 7300 Passcode: yearsix

Have a wonderful weekend,

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