

**Headteacher: Mr D Childs**

13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents

It has been another extremely settled and focused week at Ryarsh Primary School. Over the past 2 weeks, we have been carrying out review meetings with all classes. This has helped us to discuss the mental health and wellbeing needs of the children, as well as beginning to identify ways in which we can support our children further.

A key way of supporting our children is by working alongside our families to make sure that every one of our children has the best education experience possible. This week, we have really enjoyed speaking to you all during our virtual parent consultations. It's fair to say that it was a unique experience for us all, but all of the staff have thoroughly enjoyed the conversations with you. We really enjoy celebrating our children so it was a great opportunity to tell you all how much we have loved having them back with us since September.

#### **Covid19 - Safety Update**

With new national restrictions that began on November 5<sup>th</sup>, I wanted to direct you to the current guidelines in place:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

There are some important points to draw out from this guidance:

- In general, you must not meet with another person socially or undertake any activities with another person. However, you can exercise or meet in a public outdoor space with people you live with, your [support bubble](#) (or as part of a [childcare bubble](#)), or with one other person.
- You should minimise time spent outside your home. When around other people, stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household - meaning the people you live with - or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay 1 metre apart with extra precautions (e.g. wearing a [face covering](#)).

Throughout this week, I have given many reminders for parents to keep a distance of 2M. During our HSE Covid-19 spot inspections, our inspectors were clear that face coverings are the lowest level of protection. Wearing a face covering does not mean that distancing is not required. The most important action we can all take is to make sure that a 2M distance is kept wherever possible. Also, please keep your siblings with you once they have been sent to you by the adults from the class. We need to make sure that we are not mixing bubbles and by allowing children to run around and play on the playground at the end of the day, we are at risk of this happening.

I would also urge you to think carefully about car sharing where it is not absolutely essential. Some recent advice I had from the Department for Education helpline was that in an event of a confirmed case, anyone that has been in the same car within 48 hours would be considered a close contact and would need to self-isolate for 2 weeks.

It takes a village to raise a child, but a community to protect them. Many of you will be aware that there were over 30,000 confirmed cases yesterday. From our experience, we are also dealing with a significant rise in confirmed cases within our community. It is crucial that we will continue to work together to protect, not only our own families, but the entire school community.

## Staffing

I am delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our Ryarsh family. Louise Maloney and Dorinda Campbell have joined our midday supervisor team and have been a fantastic addition to our lunchtime staff. Sadly, we said goodbye to Mrs Osborne just before half term. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

Bethany Heathfield and Rebecca Morgan have also joined our teaching assistant team to provide further support for children around the school. As a school, we place great importance in strong relationships making such a crucial difference to our children and will continue to invest in both the adults and children in our school.

To this point, we currently have vacancies for teaching assistants to join our team. Not because we have any members of staff leaving, but we want to continue to invest in further additions to the staffing team. To find out more details, please visit <https://www.kent-teach.com/> and search for Ryarsh Primary School.

Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe,

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