

Headteacher: Mr D Childs

20th November 2020

Dear Parents

With our focus on anti-bullying this week, it has been wonderful to see so many acts of kindness and compassion that really are the bedrock of our school community. As we currently find ourselves in the middle of a national lockdown, it will be more important than ever to make sure that we continue to support each other through what is undoubtedly a difficult time.

Parent Workshop

With the children's social interaction opportunities being limited at the moment, many will be spending more time online. To help support our community with ways to keep children safe online, Mr Payne and I will be hosting a virtual parent workshop on Wednesday 25th November at 5:00pm. Please find the zoom details below:

Topic: Online Safety Workshop
Time: Nov 25, 2020 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84988509250?pwd=TkwwczBxMXFoNk11eTZySmZrSEhEdz09>

Meeting ID: 849 8850 9250
Passcode: 2DP3ik

Virtual Parent Consultations

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for attending our virtual parent consultations last week. Whilst it is not the way we would prefer to be meeting with you, we felt that it was extremely important to make sure that we provided an alternative version of parent consultations.

Covid19 - Safety Update

As a school, we receive daily emails from the Department for Education regarding updates to national guidance that impact on the way schools operate. There have also been several updates to other sets of guidance since the new national restrictions were introduced on the 5th November. I will try my best to provide you with the key changes each week as I fully appreciate that keeping up with the changes to national guidance is not easy.

This week, there have been changes made to the guidance on free school meals.

For further information, please click on the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools# covid-winter-grant-scheme>

During the first lockdown, many of you will know that government guidance meant that public playgrounds had to shut. This is different to the current restrictions in place. Please find a link below to updated guidance regarding the use of public playgrounds and outdoor gyms:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

Please remember to arrive at the correct time slots in the morning and afternoons. These are:

Class	Drop off	Collection
Reception	8:55	3:00
Year 1 & year 2	8:50	3:05
Year 3 & year 4	8:45	3:10
Year 5 & year 6	8:40	3:15

This helps us to make sure that our playground does not become too crowded, making social distancing easier to achieve. To this point, we would also ask you to be mindful of where you are waiting to collect your children. Please do not wait by the entrance path in - between the allotment and bike shed or by the emergency gates as this can block the exit points, again making it difficult to achieve social distancing.

Staffing

I have some very exciting news to announce in terms of changes to our staffing team.

From January 2021, Amanda Harris will be taking on the role of deputy headteacher at Ryarsh. Following a very rigorous recruitment process, we are thrilled that she will be taking on this role and have no doubt that her skills as both a teacher and leader will be invaluable in making sure that our school continues to be 'forward thinking for a brighter future'.

Due to Mrs Harris' promotion, we are also really excited to let you know that Sophie Morris will be joining us in January from East Borough Primary School as our new key stage one leader. During our recruitment process, she truly was an outstanding candidate and is very well regarded by those she has worked with due to her excellent teaching and leadership.

We also have some other very exciting news to share with you. Mrs Watts is currently expecting to welcome a new addition to her family and will be leaving us around next March to have her second child. We would like to congratulate all of the Watts family on this excellent news.

We are sad to announce that Mrs Petty will be leaving us at the end of the month. Mrs Petty has worked with our year 6 and year 2 children since February. We wish her well as she takes on a new role in a school in Rochester.

We are delighted to let you know that Mr Yates will be joining the team from December 1st and will be working with our children in year 5 and year 6. Many of you may know him as he is a current parent at our school. We are very excited that he is joining our family and have no doubt that he will provide fantastic support for our children in Leopard class and Orang-utan class.

In terms of vacancies, we currently have one vacancy for a teaching assistant to join our 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