

Headteacher: Mr D Childs

11th December 2020

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of the term, the festive spirit is certainly alive and kicking at our school. We have begun our Christmas writing projects and many plans are afoot for next week so we can try and capture the magic of Christmas and celebrate this time of year.

Before we provide you with any updates, I just wanted to thank you all for your wonderful messages to the staff team that you have emailed to me over the past week. I have been completely overwhelmed with the kindness of your words and have no doubt that I will need to make sure that there are many boxes of tissues in the staffroom on Monday morning! I will be sneaking into school on Sunday morning to display all of your messages around the staffroom. If you would like to send a message for me to print out by Sunday morning, please email it to me using daniel.childs@ryarth.kent.sch.uk

Christmas DVD 2020

If you have ordered a Christmas DVD, you should have received a request for payment so please check your emails for this. If you have any queries about your order, please contact TDH media using their contact details found at <https://www.tdhmedia.co.uk/contact>. We are absolutely thrilled to be able to offer this to our parents as we know how precious these memories are. Whilst we have already paid for the cost of the filming and editing days, we wouldn't want there to be any barriers to our families purchasing a DVD. Please contact us and we will see what we can do to help you access a copy of the DVD.

Covid19 - Safety Update

The next week is going to be crucial for us. As a community, we need to make sure that we follow all guidelines and school procedures in order to reduce the risk of spreading Covid19. It is our understanding that the self-isolation guidelines are changing from Monday. This means from Tuesday, anyone required to self-isolate for 10 days will need to do this over Christmas day. I fully appreciate that this will be devastating news for many of our families, which is why we all have a collective responsibility to do our best to avoid this situation.

We have adapted many of our Christmas traditions to ensure that we can reduce the risk in school as much as possible. I would like to remind you all of the following key parts of the morning and afternoon routine that are in place to also help reduce this risk:

- Please arrive at the correct allocated time
- Please make sure that one adult per family is collecting your child(ren)
- Please make sure you socially distance

Over the past week, I have had to provide reminders to all three of these. In order to try and reduce the risk until Christmas, I intend to monitor the entrance gate and playground every single day to ensure that these guidelines are followed.

In terms of face coverings, we would ask you to kindly ensure you are wearing a face covering. Whilst we are not in the position to demand that all parents wear face covering to access the site, please remember that it is not only for your protection but it is more for the protection of other children and families. Also, please remember that just because a face covering is worn, this doesn't mean that social distancing does not need to be adhered to.

With infection rates being higher than the national rate, I would like to draw your attention to the current guidelines around what you should do if you are considered a close contact of anyone that displays symptoms or returns a positive Covid19 test:

Should you come into close contact with someone 48 hours prior to them becoming symptomatic or returning a positive test, you will need to isolate for 10 days. On the NHS website, close contact is defined as:

- close face to face contact (under 1 metre) for any length of time – including talking to them or coughing on them
- being within 1 to 2 metres of each other for more than 15 minutes – including travelling in a small vehicle

You can find out more information here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

If anyone in your household shows one of the three key symptoms (continuous cough, temperature, loss of taste/smell), please remember that you need to enter a period of household isolation immediately. Over the past few months, many of our families have been excellent at following this guidance, and to be completely transparent with you, this has prevented us needing to close more classes.

Parent Communication

Following a fantastic parent workshop on school communication, we have produced a 1 page summary of the communication channels in the school. Attached to this parentmail is this summary and it highlights the different ways the school communicates with parents and the purpose of each communication channel. The feedback we had from parents highlighted that whilst the majority of parents were very pleased with the communication, it could be strengthened by making it more consistent across the school, especially with there now being so many different channels of communication. We hope that this document will provide this consistency.

Parent Workshops

Please remember that we have two parent workshops next week, both carried out via Zoom. Should you wish to attend the details are below:

Homework Feedback

Daniel Childs is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Daniel Childs' Zoom Meeting

Time: Dec 14, 2020 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89242652369?pwd=eEZCcDhwZ05FU1lPQnJqWU95ckFrUT09>

Meeting ID: 892 4265 2369

Passcode: 6xBHfK

Relationship and Sex Education Consultation

Daniel Childs is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: RSE Q & A

Time: Dec 16, 2020 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83370590976?pwd=Z2lkW9TZHhSUDZlSHMzb25ZbjZ2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 833 7059 0976

Passcode: 8cqsF7

Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe,

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