

Headteacher: Mr D Childs

5th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Last week, I started my letter by referring to how challenging life is for us all at the moment. Over the past seven days, we have been reflecting on our current provision to see what else we can improve to help make life that little bit less challenging, whilst continuing to support the education and wellbeing of our children. We spend a great deal of time using feedback from our community to help us answer the question 'what does our community need right now?' Whilst we will continue to think about new ways to engage and support our children, we are mindful of not overwhelming our families.

Remote Learning Review

After half term, we are making some changes to our remote learning offer in an attempt to provide more time for all of our children and families to engage in the wider curriculum opportunities.

From Monday to Thursday, we will continue to offer video lessons to support reading, writing and mathematics. On Friday mornings, we will be offering video lessons in other subjects such as history/geography, science or art. As part of these lessons, children will still be developing their learning in areas such as reading, writing and mathematics. At Ryarth, we take great pride in nurturing and developing well-rounded children. To do this, we think it is vital to provide them with more teacher time to develop their learning in a wider range of subjects. By moving these subjects from the afternoons to Friday morning, we hope that this will help provide more time for these subjects. These Friday morning sessions will also include pre-recorded videos in year 1 and live lessons in years 2-6.

In the afternoon, we will focus on providing opportunities that are designed around the theme of 'heart, mind and body'. These plans will be based around subjects such as PE, music, art projects, and PSHE. The plans will be uploaded to the google classroom pages so all children in the school have access to the same opportunities.

By streamlining our offer and focusing on these areas, we hope that this will support our children with what they need right now, as well as alleviate the pressure on our parents working so incredibly hard to support remote learning.

Chinese New Year & RyArts Day

Next week, we have two events taking place in school. On Thursday 11th February, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. The children will be taking part in various activities throughout the day to learn all about this wonderful celebration. The plans, resources and timetable that the children will be following will be posted on the google classroom page.

As part of the day, we have secured a zoom workshop for the children to take part in. This 'Zoolab' workshop will give the children the opportunity to learn about four of the animals from the Chinese New Year story. The same workshop will be delivered at two different times to provide as much flexibility for our families as possible. The first workshop will begin at 1pm and the second will begin at 2pm. We would advise reception, year 1 and year 2 to join at 1pm, with years 3,4,5 and 6 joining at 2pm as this aligns with lunchtimes. However, as it's the same workshop, you can choose which one to join. To join the workshop, use the login details below at your preferred time:

<https://zoom.us/j/92806518631>

Meeting ID: 928 0651 8631

If you have any further questions about this, please let the class teacher know.

On Friday 12th February, we are very excited to host our very first arts festival – RyArts day! Mrs Morris has sent a letter with all of the details of the day and we are really looking forward to our themed day all about The Lion King.

Please note that due to our events next week, there will be no live afternoon session for one of the foundation subjects. However, we will still be using zoom 'social sessions' for the children next week.

I would like to thank the PFTA for funding enough wooden spoons for every child, as part of our Ryarth Masterchef day. I would also like to thank them for funding all resources for our RyArts day. This has helped us provide resources for every child in the school, including the material for masks and DVDs of the film.

Online Safety

Next week is Safer Internet Day. All classes will be taking part in activities to teach the children all about staying safe when online. Given the increasing amount of time children are spending online, teaching the children how to stay safe will be more important than ever.

You can find out more about how to support your child by visiting <https://www.saferinternetday.org/>.

As the majority of our children are now learning remotely, we need to make sure that we do everything we can to make sure our children are safe when online. Over the past week, we have made changes to our child protection policy and acceptable use policy in light of the period of national lockdown.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that our zoom lessons are all recorded so that we are able to upload them on to the google classroom platform for other families to use at a different time. These recordings are not stored on any type of public platform.

If you wish to read the child protection addendum and acceptable use policy documents in full, I have attached them to this email and added them to the school website.

#RyarshChallenge

It has been wonderful to see the entries to our photography challenge so far. This challenge is all about using a photograph to 'express yourself'. This is also the theme for children's mental health week, which we have been learning all about this week. We will keep this challenge going until the end of term. To submit your entry, please upload your photograph to the google classroom page using the following link:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjQ3NTAwNDgxMTgx?cjc=rlpui7v>

If you would like a more private way to share the photograph, please email the class teacher.

Also, it was great to see so many children taking part in the 'Ryarsh Masterchef Challenge' this week. There are so many great learning opportunities that arise from making all manner of things in the kitchen and we wanted to provide a fun learning experience for all of our children.

Changes to our School Website

This week, we have added a new section to our school website: <http://www.ryarsh.kent.sch.uk>. To the right of the menu, there is now a section called Covid-19. This includes three new pages on 'guidance', 'our response' and 'safeguarding'.

- Within the 'guidance' page, you should find useful links to national guidance and documentation on issues to do with schools, as well as specific guidance on covid-19.
- Within 'our response' page, you will find our planning documents such as our school plan, remote learning plan and covid-19 funding plan.
- Within our 'safeguarding' page, you will find an addendum to our child protection policy, as well as our updated acceptable use policy. This acceptable use policy details how staff and children will need to use technology when engaging with remote learning, in a way that upholds high levels of safeguarding.

Extreme Weather

Next week, the weather forecast shows that it will be extremely cold with a possibility of Snow. At the moment, the forecast indicates that the wind-chill will make temperatures on Monday morning feel like -7°. Please send your child to school with a coat and additional layers as we still need to keep the classrooms ventilated. We would also advise you to send them in with a change of footwear and PE kits in a bag, just in case they need to add additional layers or change their clothing.

Have the best weekend possible,

Daniel Childs and the team at Ryarsh Primary School