



Vicarage Lane, Royston, Barnsley, S71 4QY
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www.royston-stjohn.org.uk



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5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I fully understand that the last 24 hours have been extremely stressful for everyone and left us with many questions to be answered. We just want to ensure you that we continue to do everything as a school to provide the best education possible for our wonderful children.

As you are all aware, from tomorrow, school will only be open to those of children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children. This has been something as a school, we were provided with very little time to implement. We took the very difficult decision, as thousands of other schools across the country did yesterday, to keep the school closed today in order to provide the best for our children over this lockdown period.

So, as we enter this period of lockdown together, we just wanted to reassure our community that the measures in place, with us all pulling together, will provide ALL of our children with the best education, safeguarding and well-being provision.

Firstly, we would like to inform you of our plans for the school day. In order to provide clear routines and structure for our children, staff and wider community, we will continue to operate the school day timings. This means:

- **the gates will open at 8.40am in the morning and children can be collected from 3.15pm**
- **entrance to school will remain the same and the one-way system will continue to be in operation**
- **one person from each family dropping children off and collecting**
- **face masks must be worn whilst waiting and whilst on the school grounds**
- **please ring through to school if you wish to discuss anything**
- **children attending school will continue to wear school uniform but due to us following government guidance around ventilation, children can wear thick jumpers and coats on top**
- **PE days for each class will remain the same and, on these days, children can continue to attend school in their PE kits**
- **school lunches will still be offered and a hot dinner will be available every day**

Secondly, we would like provide full details of the systems in place for children accessing education both in school and remotely.

- **class teachers will be in school 3 days a week and will be working remotely for the other 2 days.**
- **support staff will be in school 2 days a week and will be working remotely for the other 3 days**

This system will allow us, as a school, to provide our high quality of education for ALL children. Children, regardless of whether they are in school, or at home, will have a full-time member of staff working with them at all times. This is to provide on-going and regular feedback, support with their learning and general well-being catch up phone calls as we have done previously when class bubbles have closed.

Due to the fantastic work we have been doing over the past 18 months on our curriculum development, the learning taking place on Google Classrooms, will be a continuation of what has been taking place in school last term. Likewise, the learning provided will be the same curriculum whether face to face or remotely.



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Thirdly, we would like to outline our plan for remote learning on Google Classrooms.

- **learning will be uploaded each day and we will provide a timetable for each class**
- **lessons will remain on Google Classroom all day to be flexible with each family**
- **there will be at least a reading/phonics session, writing, maths and wider curriculum lesson each day**
- **children can complete this directly on Google Classrooms and return it for feedback and support or in their workbook, which can be collected from the entrance area from tomorrow morning**
- **the learning provided will feed in to your child's education when schools fully reopen**
- **lessons will be structured with a direct instruction, opportunities to retrieve learning and independently apply their knowledge**
- **a daily class story read by your class teacher**

We cannot stress the importance of working together over the following 6 weeks. We firmly believe that what we have in place will best support our children whether they are learning in school or remotely.

As stated earlier in this letter, I know there is frustration regarding the timing of the announcement and many are anxious about what the next few weeks will look like but please rest assured that, as we have done through this pandemic, all of Team RSJB will be supporting your children and you each step of the way. We saw children who had been incredibly well guided by their families. Children who had come back full of care for each other. Children who loved learning. That was down to each of you.

On behalf of everyone here at RSJB, I thank you again for your patience and understanding. This time is uncertain. This time is worrying. This time is upsetting. However, this time will pass and we will come out of the other side stronger together.

Please take care and keep safe.

Mr Spencer
Executive Headteacher