



Monday 21 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

I would like to say first of all welcome back to Riston Primary Academy. I am sure there were lots of mixed emotions after such a long break from school but the children are being absolutely fantastic! There were lots of smiling faces and chatter as the children said hello to their friends again and got to know their new teachers and classroom. The teaching staff did an amazing job during lockdown to keep the provision going for some of our children but I can see that they are really happy to have their full classes back!

As stated in my letter at the end of summer, our priority is to ensure that the children have a smooth transition back into school. There has been a lot of emphasis on wellbeing and making sure that the children feel part of a team again. For example, the children have made their own class charters where they have discussed how to keep everyone safe and happy. The children have adapted to the slight changes in the lunchtime routine and staying within bubbles brilliantly. Wellbeing will continue to be a high priority in school as well as building up focus, perseverance and independence within lessons. After all, it has been a rather long gap between learning!

Start and end of the day

Thank you to parents for supporting us in the systems we have put in place to minimise adult contact. It is **imperative** that we adhere to the times for pick up and drop off so the one-way system is as effective as possible and we avoid parents waiting to drop children off. A reminder of the starts time are listed below:

EYFS: The start of the day is 9:10 to 9:20am and pick up time is from 3:15 to 3:25pm

All other year groups: The start of the day is 8:45 to 8:55am and pick up time is from 3:20 to 3.30pm.

Don't be a Contact!

Just a reminder that we as a school are fully committed to the 'Don't be a contact' idea. Please avoid staying behind to chat to other parents when dropping off or picking up your child/ren. Remember, you can catch the virus if you are one metre apart for one minute speaking face to face with someone who has it. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Access to school

I would like to remind parents that teachers will not be able to have conversations with you at the beginning or end of the day. Instead, please phone or email school with the

information you would like to share. Please do **not** come into school. Visitors coming into school are being strictly monitored. Instead, please call the office to make an appointment.

Teaching and Learning

I have had the privilege of seeing and hearing lots of interaction and discussions and activities going on in the classrooms as the children started their new curriculum. The teachers have prepared a newsletter for their class explaining what the children will be learning in school. I hope you find them informative and useful.

Worship

As we are not coming together as a school at this moment in time, the children will be participating in class worship. Reverend Andy has very kindly filmed worships for us to show and join in within our classes. We will also have celebration time each week where we acknowledge the special achievements of children in the class.

Attendance

It is so important for the children to be in school whenever possible. Our whole-school target is 97%. We are at 97%. Thank you for supporting us in making sure your child is in school and ready to learn every day.

Face Coverings

You will be aware that from Monday 14 September, the government has limited social gatherings to six people. While this new law does not apply to schools or workplaces, nevertheless it has been introduced urgently as cases of Covid-19 have begun to rise rapidly. Therefore, as a safety measure and to play our part in helping to reduce any transmission of the virus, **we are now asking parents and carers to wear face coverings as soon as they come on to the school site.** This is with immediate effect until further notice. It will be permissible not to wear face coverings if there are valid reasons not to. There is no requirement for any of our children to wear face coverings at any time; however it is your prerogative if you wish your child to wear a face covering in school. Staff will wear a face covering when moving around the school, they will not wear a covering within the classroom unless they specifically choose to.

Lunch Time

The children will start lunch time from 11:45am each day, if your child is a home dinner then pick up is 11:45 am outside the school office, the children need to be back in school for 12:45pm.

Stay safe and thanks again for your continued support of the school in these very challenging times.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Victoria Tippett