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18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government guidance on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, RPS has welcomed back **Year 1, Year 6 and Reception** children. We made the decision **not** to re-open Nursery based on parental feedback and preferences. We have had fewer children return to school than we had hoped for but it has been wonderful having some of our children back once again.

Over the last few weeks we have been in contact with parents through emails, surveys or telephone calls in order to make arrangements for the children's return. Now that we know exactly how many children have returned, the school needs to make a decision on the maximum number of children the school can accommodate with the current guidance on social distancing.

As a school we will continue to make provision for children of critical workers and other eligible pupils. Following the many guidance papers from the Department of Education (DfE), we have been working relentlessly to prepare for the safety and welfare of our pupils and staff. We shared this plan with all parents before the May Half term break so parents had a chance to read through this and make an informed decision about whether or not they would like to send their children back to school. We have also provided a short film for parents to use with their children to help them with the transition before they return to school and hope parents have found this helpful.

The government have now acknowledged that it is not practically possible for all children to return to school before the summer term, while adhering to current social distancing measures and guidelines. I understand that many parents and children in **Year 2 to Year 5** may feel worried about this lack of clarity. I am writing to set out our plans going forward. These are based on our individual school circumstances, our staffing and classroom space. We have surveyed year 5 families and are going to open 1 year 5 bubble. This group of children will return to school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June. They will then attend school every Thursday and Friday until the end of term. They will be taught in Belfast class by Nina Hall. Due to staffing issues it is not possible for these children to be taught by their class teacher.

We have also sent a survey to parents of year 2, 3 and 4. This survey closes on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Additional bubbles will be planned according to the feedback collected in this form. It is not possible to enable all children to return or for them to have their own class teachers or even their own classrooms.

We are waiting for further information from the government regarding catch up programmes for children and when and how this will be implemented. We will update you once we have more information.

I would like to set out what is currently in place and will continue to be in place for children not attending the school site. We are also proposing some new additions to help support parents with remote learning further.

### **What is in place and will continue to be in place moving forward for those children not attending school**

#### **Remote Learning**

We recognise that it has been challenging for parents to manage remote learning, working from home and family life during the lockdown. This is why we have provided a range of online and offline options to support families. We appreciate the many positive comments we have received about how this has been managed and would like to thank you as parents for supporting your children at home.

Based on parental feedback throughout lockdown, Class Teachers will continue to provide a wide range of different of online learning to suit different preferences. Pupils in school will follow the same learning.

- For parents who prefer a teacher presenting the lesson we provide year group appropriate links to Oak Academy learning. Teaching that is directed by a teacher.
- For parents who prefer more game based learning for the children we provide links to Maths and Literacy games.
- For parents who prefer a paper copy of the weekly learning we provide photo copy packs that parents then collect from school. Parents can continue to request this and the packs will be made up and ready for collection.
- For parents who prefer more practical activities we have provided links to science, art and topic work.
- For parents and children who prefer to stick to a timetabled approach every year group have a weekly suggested timetable with links to lessons and or activities.

- We have also provided examples of timetables to help parents structure the day for their child/ren.
- For children in the Early Years we will continue to use Tapestry as a communication and social tool to keep children in the EYFS connected in some way.
- We do an assembly every Monday morning via a recorded video that can be found on our website

## Communication

Class teachers have set up class emails and send out weekly emails to all parents.

- Children can upload their work or any activities that they have been doing and email their teacher for feedback.
- Parents can also use the email to communicate with teachers about their child learning and or wellbeing.
- Parents may also request a call from teachers via the class email if this is required.
- Parents can continue to use the class emails to communicate any issues relating to the remote learning and the teacher will be able to respond and support when needed.
- Class Teachers or the safeguarding team have been calling families (some families on a weekly basis).
- Parents can contact the school via the school number on 020 7237 1586 or email [office@rotherhithe.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:office@rotherhithe.southwark.sch.uk) if you would like to discuss or communicate with staff in school.

## Food Vouchers

- We will continue to provide the Edenred Vouchers to eligible families whose children **do not** attend school. Children who are returning to school will not be getting the full allocation of £15 per week but instead will receive £9 per week.
- Any family that is not receiving Edenred vouchers can request a packed lunch for their child as Southwark has provided funding for this. Parents need to either contact the school by 9:30 am to request a packed lunch or complete online survey and collect food at stipulated times.

We are relieved that the government has agreed to pay these food vouchers over the summer holiday period. We will keep you informed about this towards the end of this term.

**We are constantly looking at improving and doing more for our children. We are looking to do the following:**

**Communication**

- Children not attending school will now be called by their teacher every 2 – 3 weeks until the end of the summer term.
- We are also working to set up Windows Teams to allow whole classes to meet at least once a week to facilitate contact and an opportunity to socialise with each other (from a distance).

We hope this gives some clarity on what we are currently providing for those children not attending school. We will constantly review and revisit our provision and we welcome your feedback. It is regrettable that we are finding ourselves in this position but I want to assure you that we are doing all we can to support our school community as best we can in these uncharted waters.

Yours sincerely,

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Galiema Amien-Cloete  
Executive Head Teacher

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Lisa Christiansen  
Head of School