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15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In just a few days this academic year will be drawing to a close. It has been challenging for every single individual and affected and impacted on everyone in different ways. However, we have all managed in our own way to cope with these challenges and thus we know that we can see this through.

We would firstly like to thank all staff for their selfless commitment to the pupils of RPS and the sacrifices they have made as educators whilst managing their own families and challenges at home.

We want to thank parents for working with the school throughout this period and for all the positive comments, phone calls and emails of gratitude and appreciation for what the school was able to provide during this time. I must admit the chocolates, cakes and sweets also helped to keep us smiling. The staff felt appreciated and valued by your gestures. Parents and carers need a special thank you too, for taking on remote - learning in the way you have and doing all you could to ensure that our children remained safe, happy and engaged.

We have also appreciated the constructive feedback of parents that allowed the school staff to reflect and adapt throughout the ever changing ebb and flow of this global pandemic. We did not get everything right but we most certainly gave it a herculean effort.

Let us not forget the bravest of all... our children. A massive well done to all our children who remained focused on their learning (in whatever shape or form this took), those who were able to attend school and those who have not yet returned, we are proud of you and we have missed you. Thank you for working with your parents and carers and we cannot wait to have our whole community back together again.

To our year 6 children that are about to leave us for their next phase of education; you have been super stars. This is not what we envisaged for you at the start of year 6, but you have demonstrated the values of our school throughout and we are proud of your achievements. You will not be remembered as the COVID -19 cohort because to us you will forever be the warriors of 2020. We will be planning a fitting farewell for you as soon as we are able to plan an event where we can socialise and enjoy ourselves without social distancing limitations. We will see you again in the near future!



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It has indeed been interesting times but we remain steadfast in our belief that with unity and a positive community spirit we will reconnect and rebuild our RPS family to be stronger and even more resilient than ever before.

We wish all our families, children and staff a very restful break and that you may find the time to gather your strength and establish a sense of inner peace that will allow you to be ready for the next phase of the journey ahead.

With warmest regards,

Galiema Amien – Cloete
Executive Head Teacher

Lisa Christiansen
Head of School

Please see attached the proposed plan for the Autumn Term



Autumn Term Recovery Curriculum

Aims

We want to create a curriculum that is agile and responsive to the needs of our pupils. We have used the guidance for full opening from the DfE (published on the 2nd July) and ensured that our provision remains unique to us and focussed on the needs of our community. For this reason we will not create our recovery curriculum based on perceived 'gaps' but rather on what pupils need based on teacher's observation and pupil feedback.

Our reintegration programme will be based on:

1. Parents and student communications with their teachers via email or telephone and the telephone logs.
2. Information from other staff who may have had contact with families
3. Multi-agency professional views where relevant

All pupils would have been offered an online survey to complete about their time in lockdown, what they are proud of, what they struggled with and any other worries they may have experienced or are experiencing. The information within this survey is then being used to inform new class teachers and place them in a better position to support the children's wellbeing, which will be one of our key focusses in the first half of the autumn term. If your child has not yet completed the survey, please help them to do so by Friday 17th July.

How are we preparing our staff?

At RPS our staff have received 'Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experience' training delivered by an Educational Psychologist. They have also received bereavement training, training focussed on supporting children's mental health while transitioning back into school and all teachers are trained to deliver the Mindup programme.

How are we preparing our children?

Children will have received a holiday pack covering curriculum topics that they may have missed during the summer term. We hope this will keep them engaged with key elements of their learning during the summer break. We will use this as a starting point when we welcome children back to school in September. We have been informed that the National Oak Academy online lessons from this term will still be available for parents to access during July and August at the following link: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>. At the end of the summer break these will be removed from the website.

Approaches to our Curriculum

Throughout the coming academic year, the school will be focusing on **four main key issues:**

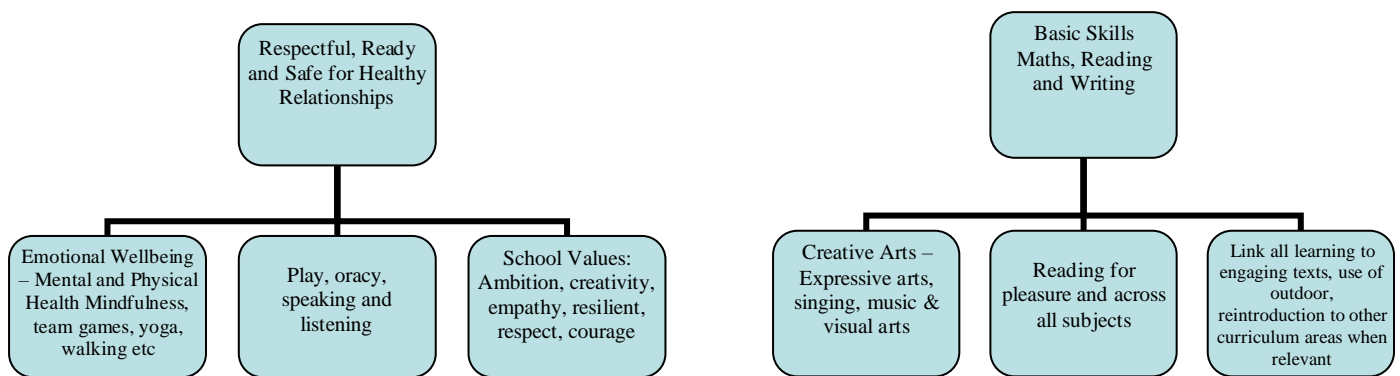
1. The need to recover missed learning and addressing gaps in skills and knowledge
2. Predictions are that the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children has widened significantly. We will be working with the staff team to establish intervention work to address this and any other GAPS that may have arisen.
3. Addressing the impact of lockdown on pupils' personal and social skills and their overall well-being.

4. We will be looking at contingency plans in preparation for possible further lockdowns and will continue to develop our remote learning for any pupils not able to be in school.

We will

- Review our behaviour management strategy and ensure steps are in place to support all children and especially those who will find the process of returning to school more difficult
- Prioritise 'Personal Social Health Education' (PSHE) in September. As a school identify what needs to be taught, where and how;
- Review, identify and provide additional support for children who may require it;
- Provide pastoral support for children who may be experiencing loss, anxiety, attachment challenges or bereavement;

Our over – arching approach to our curriculum:



What will the first two days look like in school?

The first two days 3rd and 4th September will be focused on important work around children's transition into school. This will include activities around settling in, establishing class charters, establishing expectations on behaviour, reinforcing expectations on hygiene, getting to know 'you' activities, opportunities to speak about their lockdown experiences, mindfulness, regular story time, maths problem solving, art activities and daily reflection time.

What will the rest of the first half term look like?

It will be necessary to adapt the curriculum for a short time at the start of the new academic year **but** we will return to a full and broad curriculum as quickly as possible and as soon as our children are ready. We will continue to focus on cross curricular subjects and themes where possible whilst still focusing on basic skills including phonics, number work and reading.

We will be introducing an English transition unit to support the children in our school community to re-connect with each other and re-engage with school life. We will adapt this based on the knowledge we have gained through surveys and our observations of the children.

This literacy-based unit aims to support reading and writing for pleasure across the school. The age-appropriate activities will provide opportunities for children to use writing for a range of purposes including personal response as well as shared reading and meaning-making.

Our planned activities will:

- provide a framework for children to re-engage socially with each other and their wider community;

- suggest opportunities to engage positively with the outdoor environment;
- stimulate thinking and talk about world events and the impact of these events on individuals and the wider world;
- provide a safe forum to share thoughts, concerns, ideas and personal responses;
- use art and writing to help children respond personally to experiences they have had;
- provide opportunities for Maths to be taught and explored throughout this unit in a cross curricular way;

PE and sport activities will be delivered by our specialist coach and will follow current DfE guidance. Our fantastic music provision will continue and will be delivered by Margaret and her team. All specialist activities will be delivered with social distancing in mind. Any equipment used will be disinfected before and after use.

Marking and Feedback

Following DfE guidelines we will be adapting our marking policy to ensure we do all we can to reduce the spread of the virus for the children and our staff.

Social Distancing

From year 2 – 6 children will sit in rows with some social distancing where appropriate, we understand that this will be a new experience for those who have not been in school. Children will be able to mix in year group bubbles but not beyond. This will mean that play time and lunch time provision will be adapted accordingly. We will continue to provide individual resources to children where possible to minimise the potential spread of the virus. Year 1 will be following an Early Years based teaching approach during transition in the first half of term.

Unfortunately, we will have to continue to ask parents not to enter the school playground during drop off and pick up. Only pre-arranged visits to the school will be accommodated.

New Build

During the summer holidays the building contractors will be on site. The playground will no longer be available to use as the new school building will be underway when we return in September. We will instead be using other spaces on the Rotherhithe New Road side of the building as play spaces. The building works and the pandemic situation mean that we have to stagger the times children arrive and exit from school. These are the planned arrangements.

New Entrance and Exit Points

The **front office reception gate** will be widened. This will be the main entrance and exit point for children in year 2, 3 and 4.

A second gate (**Early Years Gate**) will be built directly into the Early Years playground. Nursery children, Reception children and year 1 children will enter and leave school via this entrance point.

Year 5 & 6 children will enter and exit school via the gate near the **ICT suite**. (See attached plan for position of gates and classrooms.)

It is important that parents continue to adhere to social distancing rules and have due regard for the neighbours in Addy House when collecting and dropping children off.

Start and End times (this will be reviewed regularly and may have to change)

Nursery am children will arrive at **8:30am** through the Early Years Gate. Children who attend Nursery in the morning only will exit via the Early Years gate at **11:30 am**.

Nursery pm children will arrive at **12:20pm** via the Reception Office Gate. They will leave nursery at **3:20 pm** via the Early Years Gate.

Reception children will arrive at **9:00am** and go straight into their classrooms. The children will leave school at **3:00 pm**.

Year 1 children will arrive at **8:50 am** and enter school through the Early Years gate. They will travel through the Reception class, through the infant hall straight into their classrooms. The children should be reminded that they must not touch anything in the playground or classroom as they do this. The children will then leave school at **3:10 pm** through the Early Years gate.

Year 2 will arrive at **8:40 am** and enter the school building via the main office reception gate. They will travel straight to their classrooms. They will be released at **2:55 pm** via the reception gate.

Year 3 children will arrive at **8:50 am** and enter the school building via the main office reception gate. They will be released at **3:05pm** from the main office Reception gate.

Year 4 will arrive at **9:00** and they will also enter via the school building via the main office Reception gate. They will be released at **3:15pm** from the same gate.

Year 5 children will arrive at **8:50 am** and the children should enter the school through the ICT gate and travel straight to their classes. The children will leave at **3:05 pm** from this gate.

Year 6 children will enter via the ICT gate at **9am**. They will travel straight to their classrooms. They will be released from this gate at **3:15 pm**

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be available for parents who require this. Children will sit within year group bubbles within the canteen to prevent cross year group mixing. The cost for breakfast club will be £1:50 per day. Parents can request a space via the school office. Spaces are limited. Parents must pay on Monday for the week. Parents who currently owe money for breakfast club will not be allocated a place until this debt is paid. Breakfast club will open at 8am. Children attending breakfast club must be in the club by 8:30 latest please.

After School Wrap around Provision

The external after school wrap around provision with **TREETOPS** has now started and will be in place in September. This will allow our parents more flexibility to book places according to individual needs. We circulated this information last week via email. Please contact Treetops directly to book your child's after school days from September onwards. This will no longer be managed by the school.

Sports and Music Clubs

We will be offering some after school music and sports club. More information will be shared with parents when we return in September.

Parent Meetings

Moving forward all parent meetings for the Autumn Term will be conducted via Microsoft Teams until further notice. Other meetings including IEP, SEND and EHCP meetings will also be hosted via Microsoft Teams in the first instance until the social distancing arrangements have been revised by the Government.

Class teachers will send a welcome email to all parents on the 2nd of September. Parents are encouraged to continue to use the year group emails as the main form of communication.

Performances and Assemblies

Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to conduct any performances and or assemblies during the first term. We will of course keep this under review and update Parents as soon as the guidelines change. Children will be having assemblies via online methods.

School Trips

To support the children's transition into full opening of school we will not be planning any trips during the first half term. We will review this for the second half of Autumn Term and inform parents accordingly.

Special Education and Disability needs

The DfE has been very clear that peripatetic provision such as speech and language, occupational therapy etc. will be allowed to continue with clear hygiene in place. Parents are informed that these provisions will continue on a 1:1 basis. Children with EHC plans receiving individual support will continue to be supported based on their needs with due regard that social distancing cannot always be guaranteed in a school environment.

Risk Assessment

The school has completed a Risk Assessment that carefully considers potential hazards and risks of Covid-19 infection due to full school opening. The final version of this Risk Assessment will be available on our website by the end of term.

Hygiene

We will continue to observe strict hygiene practises in school. On entry to school **all** children will be required to either sanitise their hands or wash them thoroughly. We will continue to remind children of good hygiene and supervise this throughout the day.

As is the current practice we will continue to have a cleaner continually cleaning and disinfecting the school throughout the day.

Transport and Wearing Masks

Where possible we would request that children and parents walk to school. We cannot provide access to a bike or scooter shed during the autumn term.

Children are **exempt** from wearing face masks/coverings. However, if parents chose to send children into school wearing a face mask/covering please teach them the following procedures based on DfE guidance.

- ✓ Avoid touching the front of the face mask/face covering while wearing it
- ✓ They must travel to their classroom and on arrival they must wash their hands (adults will direct them to do this)

- ✓ They must remove the face mask carefully – either place in a lidded bin (if disposable) or if a reusable mask place in a plastic bag (parents must provide the plastic bag and this must be kept in their school bag)
- ✓ They must then wash their hands again

Attendance

We are aware that some parents and children may be anxious about returning to school. We will try to support parents as far as possible and would encourage parents to contact us if they have any concerns about returning their children to school. However, returning to school in September is **compulsory** for all children and it is expected that very few children will be requested to shield based on medical grounds. The DfE has placed clear responsibility on schools to resume normal attendance procedures. This will include:

- Same day calling when children do not attend school
- calling emergency contacts where no accountability has been gained and
- to take further actions for children who are considered to be persistently absent

We kindly request that parent's keep us fully informed if children are unwell, attending a medical appointment or showing symptoms of Covid-19. If children are unable to attend school due to parents following clinical and or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

Protective Health Measures/Engagement with Test and Trace

If children or staff are unwell with possible Covid-19 symptoms they must **NOT** attend school. Staff who are symptomatic will be sent home and required to book a Covid-19 test. In the event of a child developing Covid-19 symptoms during the school day the following will happen:

- Child will be isolated in a ventilated room;
- Toilet to be nearby and if used by the child this will then be out of use for others;
- First aider caring for the unwell person will wear a mask and gloves;
- The person's temperature will be taken and noted;
- Any waste to be disposed of in the hazardous waste bins in 2 sealed bags;
- Parents will be called to collect the child;
- Parents will be expected to engage with Test and Trace. They will be asked to book a Covid-19 test and update the school regarding the results. Tests can be booked online through the NHS website at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus> or ordered online via the NHS 119 number;

The child and household will need to self-isolate until the results of the test are confirmed. If the child tests **negative** and they are now feeling well, they may return to school.

If the child tests **positive** they must continue to self-isolate along with the rest of the household for 14 days. Please refer to the stay at home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

You **must** inform the school if your child has tested **positive** for Covid-19. We will then contact the Local Health Protection Team. This team will conduct a rapid risk assessment and will guide us through the actions that then need to take place. This is highly likely to mean that the class will be asked to self-isolate along with any members of staff who have been in direct/or close contact with the child. The self-isolation period will be 14 days from the start of the child's symptoms. If

staff and children remain well they will return to school after this time. If however, another child or staff member becomes symptomatic they too will need to book a test.

We ask that parents make sure we have up to date contacts for your family in case your child becomes unwell..

National Testing

Currently, the DfE are planning for primary assessments to occur next year. This will include the following:

- Year 2 and Year 6 SATs tests and teacher assessments
- The Year 4 Multiplication check
- The phonics screening test for year 1 and 2
- Early Years Foundation stage profiling

Remote Learning

If a class is required to self-isolate for a period of time the school will provide remote learning for the child. It is likely that the resources for remote learning will include the National Oak Academy online lessons. These lessons will have editable materials available to download from September. We would also like to develop our Microsoft Teams provision to ensure engagement for those children who potentially need to isolate. We will update parents more on this when we return in September.

Uniform

In September children will be expected to be dressed in full school uniform. You can now order and purchase school uniform. To do this you must pay via parent pay. If you would like to collect the uniform before the end of term, please contact Sharon Hudson via the school office to arrange a time to collect it. From September school uniform will be available for collection on Fridays unless otherwise arranged.

Shoes: If your child is not able to tie their own shoelaces, we ask that parents ensure they wear velcro shoes.

Hair: Children's hair that is longer than shoulder length should be tied up please with blue, white or black hair bands.

Clothes: Should be changed and clean for each new day.

Bags: Children should bring their own school bags that can fit their personal belongings like jumpers and water bottles.

Water Bottles: Children must bring a water bottle into school that is clearly labelled with the child's name and class.

Mobile Phones: Following the arrangements that have been in place during lockdown and as a precautionary measure year 5 and 6 children will **not** be able to bring in mobile phones in to school

PE: Children will be resuming the PE curriculum (except for contact sports) and this will happen with due regard to social distancing bearing in mind that children will be in class and year group bubbles. They will therefore be required to bring a PE kit to school. This should consist of trainers, shorts and a white t-shirt for indoor and long black track bottoms and a long sleeve top for outdoors. We are waiting for further guidance with regards to **swimming**.



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All personal belongings remain the children / parents' responsibilities and we cannot take responsibility for looking after these. Please ensure your child is reminded to keep their belongings in their bags.

We completely understand that this is a lot of information to take in but we wanted to be as clear as possible with parents on where we are with our September return. Although there are many uncertainties facing us, we are sharing our current plan with parents. Please bear in mind this will be under constant review and will be subject to change. We will of course keep parents updated as soon as practicably possible.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding. We do look forward to welcoming all our children back in September.

