



Rotherhithe Primary
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30th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a challenging year so far, but I am very proud of how hard the teachers, children and you as families have worked on getting through this difficult time. As the road map out of lockdown progresses and restrictions gradually lift, we can hopefully look forward to a brighter summer term.

We will continue to monitor our arrangements and update our risk assessment accordingly. This is on the website (note any changes are highlighted in a different colour). To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID we will continue to;

- Maintain rigorous hygiene standards.
- Adults not working with children, will continue to wear masks when working in office spaces and walking around the school and will follow social distancing measures as far as possible.
- We will continue to follow DfE guidance when presented with potentially symptomatic adults and children.
- Staff will continue to complete lateral flow tests.
- We will continue to provide remote education for children who are directed to self-isolate but are well.
- Maintain staggered start and exit times and also staggered lunch times.

Shielding

Shielding restrictions for those children who are clinically vulnerable come to an end on the 1st of April. If you have any concerns about your child returning to school, please speak to your GP. We look forward to welcoming these children back to school on the 20th of April.

Positive COVID Test Result

If your child develops symptoms of COVID during the first week of the Easter holiday can you please email me at the following email address: lchristiansen@rotherhithe.southwark.sch.uk or text or call me on the following phone number: 07561 817448. The DfE require the school to continue Test and Trace duties during this period.

Lateral Flow Tests

Families of school children are now able to order lateral flow tests. The recommendation is that lateral flow tests are conducted 2 times per week 3-4 days apart. You can qualify for ordering these tests if you have a child who attends school. The testing is aimed at the adults and older secondary school aged pupils within the household. The government is not asking children of primary school age to be routinely tested using these tests. If a family choose to test a primary school age pupil it is based on their decision and is not a direction from the government or school. You can find more information at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

You can order home test kits using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> You can also collect 2 packs of home kits from a collection point. Follow the link to find out more information. <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Symptomatic Cases

Lateral flow tests should **not** be used to test children who are symptomatic: e.g., have a new continuous cough, temperature or lose their sense of taste and smell. These tests are not as reliable as the PCR test. Any person who is symptomatic must book a PCR test. We will request that parents book PCR tests if children have symptoms of COVID.

Drop off and Collection of children

Can I please remind parents to socially distance and avoid gathering at the school gates. We also recommend that parents wear face masks at these times.

After School Clubs

After school sports clubs will resume after the Easter holidays. These start from the 20th of April and we are really pleased to have secured 2 additional clubs that will be run by Sports Inspired. Please ensure that you collect your children promptly at the times allocated.

PE

Due to the current limited playground space, some PE lessons will be held within Southwark Park next term. This is to enable children to have the space to play sports games that are typically taught at this time of year.

Attendance

Good attendance is essential for children to achieve their potential. The school will not penalise parents when their children have been directed to self-isolate. However, children have faced a great deal of disruption over the past 2 academic years and to mitigate against further negative effects we ask parents to plan any future holidays with caution ensuring that these are not organised within term time and that you build in any quarantine arrangements if travelling abroad.

Persistent Absence: Children are considered to be persistently absent if their attendance drops below 90%. We are directed by government to take action to improve attendance when this happens. If your child's attendance has fallen below this figure the school will contact you as parents to discuss the reasons why and how to improve attendance going forward. We will then monitor your child's attendance closely with you. Self-isolation periods and lockdown have been statistically removed when calculating these percentages currently.

We are looking forward to the Easter Bonnets that the children create. There will be a prize for the most inspired bonnet from each class – so get designing. This link provides more information about the project: <https://bit.ly/3czQIXU>

I do hope that parents, children and staff have an enjoyable Easter break and return to school on the 20th of April re-energised. Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely

Lisa Christiansen (Head of School)