



Rotherhithe Primary
Rotherhithe New Road
London
SE16 2PL

Tel: 0207 2371586
Fax: 0207 2373653
Email: office@rotherhithe.southwark.sch.uk



1st March 2021

Re-opening plans at Rotherhithe Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from my text message to parents last week, I write to you with further detail about the re-opening of RPS to **ALL pupils on the 8th of March 2021**. We are absolutely delighted to and cannot wait to have ALL our children back for face-to-face education.

We would like to thank all parents for their hard work and support with remote learning during the last 8 weeks. You have done an exceptional job under very challenging circumstances and we applaud you. We have been very pleased to offer both remote and in class teaching during this period of lockdown and continued to provide intervention sessions remotely and in class as appropriate.

As always, our staff were in regular contact with all our families to check pupil's wellbeing, engagement with remote learning and also to provide support for families more generally. I am delighted to hear reports that engagement has been rising amongst those pupils who initially found it more challenging to get to grips with remote learning. Thank you for engaging positively with staff while we resolved technical and support issues.

In preparing for our children's return, our commitment to remain vigilant in reducing the spread of the virus and keeping everyone as safe as possible remains one of our biggest priorities. As we begin to get used to the new ways of being in school, we slowly begin to bring back some of the previously well-established school practices. Each one of those practices must be risk-assessed to ensure that we are fully compliant with the government guidance.

We have already started updating our whole school Risk Assessment and this will be added to the school website shortly. To remain compliant with the current government guidelines on safe opening of schools, we would like to remind and or update you of the following practices:

Attendance

Returning to school on the 8th of March is **compulsory** for all children unless the child has been directed to shield although 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.
- ✓ To take further actions for children who are considered to be persistently absent.

We are aware that some parents and children may be anxious about returning to school. We will support parents as far as possible and would encourage parents to contact us if they have any concerns about their children returning to school.

We kindly request that parents keep us fully informed if your children are unwell, attending a medical appointment or are showing symptoms of Covid-19.

Social Distancing

From Year 3 – 6, children will remain sitting in rows, limiting social distancing where appropriate, the children will be familiar with this arrangement from the autumn term.

The DfE recognises that in the Early Years it is not possible for children to socially distance as the curriculum provision is very different to the rest of the school. For this reason, the EYFS team will promote hand washing and take necessary precaution with regards to resources. EYFS – Year 2 will continue to follow their seating arrangements as before.

Children will be able to mix in year group bubbles but not beyond. Children will continue to have lunch and playtimes within their bubbles. We will continue to provide individual resources for children where possible to minimise the potential spread of the virus.

Parents on site visits

Unfortunately, we will have to continue to ask parents not to enter the school ground during drop off and pick up. Parents will not be permitted to enter the school building without an appointment. This is to adhere to social distancing. You may call the school office to arrange a telephone consultation or a virtual Teams meeting with a member of staff if a matter is urgent. There may be a delay in teachers responding to parent's emails as teachers will now be in class full time from the 8th of March. We appreciate your understanding in this regard. Only pre-arranged visits to the school will be accommodated following the school's strict safety measures. We request that parents visiting the school wear a face mask or covering.

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. This is in addition to the daily evening cleaning of all spaces.

Start and End times

Here is a remainder of our drop off and pick-up times:

Early Years Gate	Main Office Reception Gate	ICT Gate
	Year 2: 8:40 and 2:55pm	Year 5: 8:50am and 3:05pm
Year 1: 8:50 am and 3:10pm	Year 3: 8:50 and 3:05 pm	Year 6: 9am and 3:15pm
Reception: 9am and 3pm	Year 4: 9:00 and 3:15pm	

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 Main Office Gate. They will leave nursery at **3:20 pm** via the Early Years Gate.

Main Office Reception hours will therefore be from **9:15am – 3:00pm**, parents and visitors will not be accommodated in the office during these times as this will affect children's start and leaving times.

After School Wrap around Provision including Breakfast Club

Our after-school wrap around provision with **TREETOPS** will be up and running from the 8th of March. Please contact Treetops directly to book your child's After School places.

RPS Breakfast club will be running from the 8th of March. Please play for your child's place using Parent Pay.

PE and Music Provision

We will continue with PE and sport activities delivered by our specialist coach. Children will be resuming the PE curriculum (with the exception of 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. Any equipment used will be disinfected before and after use.

Children 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 or leggings and a long sleeve top for outdoors. We are waiting for further guidance with regards to swimming.

Music: 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 and will start from the 8th of March.

Brass instrument lessons and clubs will resume on the 9th of March. Children should therefore remember to bring their instruments to school.

Sports and Music Clubs

We will continue with music after school clubs and these will resume on from the week of the 8th of March, but our sports clubs will only resume in April. We will be sending home letters shortly outlining the clubs that will be available, so we are able to start promptly after the Easter holidays.

Wearing Masks

Where possible, we would request that children and parents walk to school. Children are exempt from wearing face masks. However, we ask that adults wear a face covering when dropping off and picking up children.

PARKING

We understand that some parents might wish to drive to and from school, but we would like to remind you to park safely and not across areas that are restricted.

Staff Lateral Flow testing

Staff who opted to do the weekly lateral flow testing will continue this as it supports our measures for early detection and isolation if we need to. Some staff have started receiving vaccinations.

Remote Learning

If a class is required to self-isolate for a period of time the school will provide remote learning as we did in the Autumn Term.

Uniform

Children should be dressed in full school uniform. Grey trousers, skirts or dresses, white shirts or polo tops and a blue school jumper or cardigan. Shoes should be all black including the soles. Socks, tights and hair ties, grips or coverings should be blue, grey, black or white. As the weather warms up grey shorts and blue and white summer dresses can be worn.

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 allowed to bring in mobile phones at this stage.

Late Arrivals

Children who are late may have to wait for a year group to enter the building prior to being permitted to enter, so please be on time.

Water bottles

Please send your child to school with a labelled water bottle. This should contain **water only**. Children will be able to fill up their bottles during the day from water fountains but not drink from these directly due to our COVID 19 procedures.

Lunch time

All children will receive a hot meal and will be timetabled to eat within a year group bubble in the lunch hall. Packed lunches should be packed in disposable bags and not lunch boxes please.

Return of devices

We would like to request all parents return devices like laptops and tablets that were borrowed during lockdown during the week of the 8th of March. Please can we remind parents to ensure that all personal data like email accounts etc is removed from the device by signing out of the programme before you return it. If you have signed in using your personal email, please let the school office know which email provider you use so we can check it has been removed correctly.

Parents who borrowed devices will receive a text message or a call from the office to arrange return of the devices.

TEAMS Meetings: Teachers and Teaching Assistants will **not** hold any Team meetings on **Thursday 4th March and Friday 5th March**, to enable staff to prepare for full reopening of school. Children should however continue with online learning which will be posted on the private pages on the website on both these days.

I hope this helps clarify immediate questions that you may have. Thank you once again for your support and understanding. We do look forward to welcoming all our children back on Monday 8th of March.

Yours Sincerely,

Galiema Amien – Cloete
Executive Head Teacher

Lisa Christiansen
Head of School