



# Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

Headteacher: Miss R Baramuszcak  
Telephone: 01889 590394  
E-mail: [office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk)

Ryecroft C.E. Middle School  
Ashbourne Road  
Rocester  
Staffordshire  
ST14 5PB

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils

I wanted to write to you one last time before the summer break to detail our plans for re-opening to all pupils in September. Hopefully, this letter will reassure you that we will continue to put control measures in place to protect our pupils and to help alleviate any anxieties your child may have about returning to school. For your information, our COVID-19 risk assessment is available on our school website <http://ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk/information.html>

In September, on arrival, pupils will need to line up along the markings on the boulevard where they will have their non-contact temperature check, to determine if they are safe to be in school and be told where to sanitise their hands. Pupils on school buses will have their temperatures taken as they disembark. Anyone with a temperature exceeding 37.8°C will be asked to sit in a designated 'holding room' while parents are contacted and asked to collect their child.

If your child **comes to school on the bus**, the local authority **strongly recommends** that all children wear **face coverings**. These will need to be removed, placed in a secure plastic bag and put inside your child's school bag before entering the school buildings. Guidance also states that children should be forward facing at all times and remain in the same seat.

Understandably, new Year 5 parents and pupils will be apprehensive with the usual 'new school nerves' but we request that you **leave your child at the school gate**, rather than come on site. A member of staff will be available if you need to share any urgent concerns.

Pupils will be directed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team to their designated 'bubble'. This will be the classroom where the vast majority of their lessons will take place, with the exception of P.E and Computing. Pupils will be given a timetable so they know the sequence of their lessons each day but the teachers will come to the pupils to teach their lessons to avoid unnecessary contact and movement around the school. Whilst we endeavour to ensure pupils receive specialist teaching, some subjects will still look very different as it is not possible to deliver practical elements of lessons which require specialist equipment. This will mainly affect Science and Music.

Pupils may also find that they are in a different class to the one expected. This is because we have to work within government guidelines regarding the spacing of pupils; which has a huge impact on the capacity of each room and determines how we are able to accommodate the pupils.

We will be operating a zonal strategy, whereby key stage 2 pupils will be based upstairs and key stage 3 pupils will be on the ground floor. Breaks for the toilet, snacks and lunch will be staggered to minimise the amount of contact pupils have with other bubbles and year groups but zero contact cannot be guaranteed. Each bubble will also have a designated space outside so that they do not come into contact with other groups, minimising the likelihood of any cross infections.

Packed lunches will be provided for only those eligible for free school meals. There will be **no other catering facilities available** and therefore **all other pupils will need to be provided with a snack and packed lunch**. Water fountains are also sealed off so please ensure you provide child with enough to drink – no glass bottles or fizzy drinks please.

Cont.

We understand that many families have been adversely affected by Covid-19, which may have resulted in a change in your personal circumstances. If you feel that you may be eligible for support with free school meals, please refer the Staffordshire County Council to apply and for further information -

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

All breaks need to be tightly scheduled and pupils will not be able to go to the toilet 'on demand'. For this reason, it is imperative that you inform the school if your child has a medical issue or circumstance that we need to be aware of, to avoid any accidents.

All pupils are required to come to school in their normal school uniform. Recent guidance states that uniforms do not need to be laundered any more than usual. However, on the days your child has P.E. we would ask that he/she comes to school wearing their kit, as the changing rooms will not be in use. As a matter of importance, we also **request that your child brings in the following basic school equipment** each day as **we will not be able to provide this.**

- A minimum of 2 **blue** handwriting pens (Berol)
- Pencil
- Highlighter
- Ruler
- KS3 Pupils only - Scientific Calculator (*recommended model Casio FX-83GT*), compass & protractor
- Pencil Case
- Glue Stick
- Eraser
- Reading Book

Lockers will still be out of use in September; therefore, all bags and equipment will stay in the bubble with your child. We would discourage all pupils from bringing a mobile phone into school, however, if your child needs one for emergency contact purposes, we ask that it is switched off and not used in school time. The school does not accept any liability for loss or damage and inappropriate use will result in confiscation. Parents will be asked to come into school to collect the phone in this instance.

Regarding attendance, the government expects normal procedures to be followed. If you feel you wish to discuss your personal circumstances further please contact the school at the earliest convenience so that we can address any issues.

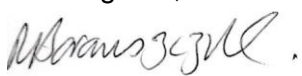
Guidance changes regularly and we will do our utmost to respond swiftly to the changes and keep you informed. We may need to react very quickly if certain circumstances arise and take action with short notice. Please ensure that you let us know of any change in contact details (phone and email) so that we can get messages to you rapidly and effectively.

I'm sorry not to be sending out my usual end of year letter, acknowledging events and achievements but I think this year is anything but usual! However, rest assured that we have all been so proud of your response to remote learning and the work that many pupils have produced is nothing short of phenomenal. Your efforts and those of your child will not have been wasted or in vain and will ensure that they are in the best position to start the next academic year.

Finally, we are sorry to be saying goodbye to one of our Inclusion Assistants, Miss Louise Haddock, we wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Miss Anna Bower who will be joining us in September, teaching French across all year groups.

Have a restful, peaceful and thoroughly deserved summer break. I look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Kind regards,



**Miss R Baramuszcak**  
**Headteacher**