



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Ryecroft C.E. Middle School
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9th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Uttoxeter Learning Trust board of Trustees has made the decision to partially re-open their schools from **Monday 15 June**. We look forward to welcoming back selected year groups at this time, but the Trust will continue to listen to advice from the local authority and government, and monitor indicators, both nationally and locally, to inform any change of provision in the future. In this way we will work to ensure, as far as possible, that we can deliver the safest possible outcomes in these very difficult times for our children, staff, parents, carers and community

For Ryecroft C.E. Middle School, this means that we will be following our plans to welcome back **Year 6** in addition to pupils of critical workers and some other key group children. Our online learning provision and contact with families continues for other year groups. To support our planning, we ask Parents and Carers to confirm their intention to support their son or daughter's return to the school by contacting the school office on 01889 590394 or emailing office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk. We will review numbers on a fortnightly basis to support our planning and social distancing.

As mentioned in a previous letter, the following procedures will be in place:

- **Start and end of School day:** When collecting and/or dropping your child off to school we ask that you do not gather at the school gates and remain in your vehicle. Please do not enter the school building unless it is absolutely necessary. Our preference for contacting the school during this time is via phone call or email. To minimise the risk of congregation, we will be looking to stagger the end of the school day, with pupils leaving from 3.20pm onwards. Children of key workers and pupils on buses will still leave at 3.40pm. Details regarding start and end times will be communicated when we are clear about exact numbers.
- **Temperature checks and illness:** On arrival pupils will be given a non-contact temperature check to determine if they are safe to be in school. Anyone with a temperature exceeding 37.8°C will be asked to sit in a designated 'holding' room. Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child at this point. The same practice will apply if anyone becomes symptomatic whilst at school. Given the current situation, if your child complains of feeling unwell before school, no matter how seemingly minor, please do not send them in but keep them at home.
- **Classroom arrangements:** Pupils will be directed to a ground floor classroom for registration where they will be asked to wash their hands and take a seat at a desk which will become their 'place' for the next few weeks. They will be in small 'bubbles' of approximately 12 pupils who will effectively become their classmates until the end of term. These are the only pupils with whom they will have contact. The capacity of each classroom has been strategically calculated to ensure all pupils are appropriately distanced. Two members of staff will be assigned to the class who, between them, will support pupils to complete tasks and activities. They will not be teaching the usual lessons but guiding pupils through the work that we are already setting and sending out. This will ensure that all pupils whether in school or continuing to self-isolate receive the same 'diet' of work.
- **Equipment:** Pupils will be provided with all stationery and equipment that pupils will need. This will remain in school on their own desk. If iPads and other equipment are required, this too will be

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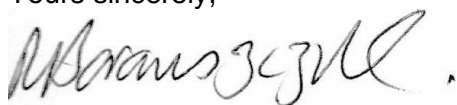
allocated to pupils and sanitised after use. We would ask however, that you provide your child with enough drinks to last the whole day. Pupils will keep all of their personal belongings with them in the classroom, lockers will not be available. Mobile phones should be left at home, if pupils need them, they must be handed in to their teacher at registration.

- **Uniform and masks:** Government recommendations state that clean clothes should be worn each day. We therefore ask that pupils attend wearing their own comfortable and practical clothing, not school uniform. Scientific advice is that pupils do not wear face masks, as inappropriate usage increases the risk posed to others. If you have any issues with this please contact me to discuss further.
- **Lunch and breaks:** Bubbles will be allocated staggered time slots throughout the day to visit the toilet, have outside breaks in their designated zones and to have their lunch. Lunch will be taken in the classroom. Unfortunately, there will be no catering facilities on-site. We therefore request that pupils bring in a break-time snack, packed lunch and drink each day (no fizzy drinks, glass bottles or foods containing nuts please).
- **Behaviour:** Pupils will be expected to observe the two metre distancing rule and to follow the control measures in place. These will be clearly explained by teachers. Non-compliance will result in pupils being removed from their bubble to work in isolation, in order to keep others safe. Parents will be duly informed. Persistent non-compliance will result in an exclusion.
- **Buses and travel:** Staffordshire County Council is responsible for the transport of those children who usually travel by school bus and is currently updating their procedures and risk assessments associated with school transport. When they are completed they will be placed on the SCC website. As soon as this information is available we will share it with parents. We would remind parents that current government advice suggests that pupils from different households should not travel in the same car to reduce the risk of infection.

If your child is ill, please notify us of the details by contacting the school office on 01889 590394 or emailing office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk. If your child shows any symptoms of COVID-19 i.e. a new and persistent cough and/or high temperature, and or loss of taste or smell, your child must be kept at home to self-isolate for seven days from when their symptoms started, and for longer if the symptoms persist. If a member of your family, living in the same household as the child(ren), is showing symptoms and following guidance has been forced to self-isolate, you will need to keep your child at home for 14 days. Please let us know if a member of your family does test positive for COVID-19. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child tests positive please notify us immediately so that we can take further measures as necessary. If you need to book a test you can do so at the following website: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Miss R Baramuszcak
Headteacher