



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

Headteacher: Miss R Baramuszcak
Telephone: 01889 590394
E-mail: office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
Website: www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

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

11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to you at the end of our first full week back to say how lovely it is to see everyone in school and to let you know how proud I am of our pupils for their responsible and mature approach to dealing with Covid-19 and our safety measures.

We have had a range of queries that I would like to clarify and after seeing our plans in operation, there are some changes that I would like to communicate which will be in place as of Monday 14th September.

As you know, pupils are taught in separate class bubbles. Class membership is based on a 'best fit' approach as we cannot have different groups for different subjects, we also need to ensure pupils have access to the extra support they require. Obviously, this has been difficult for some pupils as they may not have been placed in the group they expected. This is something we will continue to review and monitor over the coming weeks.

The bubbles have also restricted pupils from socialising with their peers and in the case of Year 5 and new pupils, it has made it more difficult for them to make new friends. For this reason we have decided to merge the respective **outdoor** playing zones for Years 5, 6 and 7, although the year groups will remain separated. This means that Year 5 will have the grounds at the back of the school and Years 6 and 7 will have access to the front of school and playground area when it is their designated outdoor social time. This will give pupils slightly more space as a year group to enable them to talk and play together, which we feel is vitally important to our pupils' well-being. The risk of virus transmission outside is virtually zero and we will still be observing social distancing rules. Pupils will continue to be taught in their existing class bubbles when they re-enter the building. Year 8 will be given more space within their current areas.

Tutor groups have also changed in light of the bubble system, please refer to the table below to see your child's tutor. I have attached the email addresses of tutors and key members of staff so that you can contact the appropriate person directly regarding any urgent issues or queries. Please continue to use the planners for non-urgent messages and to see homework requirements.

Classes	Tutor	Role	Email
5A	Mrs Blues	Lead for RE/History	cblues@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
5B	Ms Bower	Lead for French	abower@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
6A	Miss Sargeant Mr Hughes	Head of English Head of Maths	ksargeant@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk ahughes@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
6B	Miss Doyle	Lead for Geography	ldoyle@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
7A	Miss Starkey	Lead for PE	nstarkey@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
7B	Mr Johnson	Lead for Music/ICT	bjohnson@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
8A	Miss Alston	Lead for DT/Art	dalston@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
8B	Mrs Thornton		athornton@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

UTTOXETER LEARNING TRUST

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Registered Office Address:
Uttoxeter Learning Trust
Thomas Alleyne's High School
Dove Bank, Uttoxeter, Staffs
ST14 8DU
T: 01889 561820



	Mr Hall	Lead for Science and Behaviour	mrhall@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
	Mr Bardon	Lead for Safeguarding/SENDCo	sbardon@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
	Mrs Hurdman	Lead for Wellbeing/Assistant SENDCo	churdman@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
	Miss Baramuszcak	Headteacher	Headteacher@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

Regarding uniform, the school has asked all pupils to come to school in their PE kit on PE days. However, Miss Starkey (Lead Teacher for PE) has briefed pupils to bring in their uniform or extra kit should they get caught out in bad weather and/or get covered in mud (most lessons will be delivered outdoors), so that they have something to change into if necessary rather than sitting in a classroom for the rest of the day in soaking wet clothes. Please be assured that should this be the case pupils will have access to the changing rooms whilst still observing social distancing control measures.

Could I thank parents for their continued support with our uniform expectations, details of which you can find on the school website. However, we have a small number of pupils who are wearing an incorrect uniform such as Doc Martin boots, instead of shoes and very short skirts. Hair dye is also not permitted. It is important that pupils adhere to the school rules to uphold our character and standards.

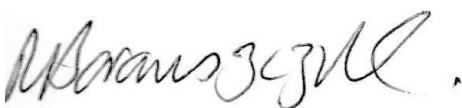
Although we have had a great start to the year, we understand that some pupils may still be struggling with their experiences during lockdown. I have received information from Barnardo's who are accepting referrals from individual children, families, carers and professionals to offer rapid support to young people affected by the coronavirus crisis.

If you would like to access this support, please enter the link below in your browser:

<https://www.barnados.org.uk/see-hear-respond>

Thank you once again for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office should you need any further information about anything mentioned in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Miss R Baramuszcak
Headteacher

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