



Rattlesden Cof E Primary Academy
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1st January 2021

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you all a happy new year.

I have decided to take the unusual decision to write to you before the start of the new term, in light of the move to Tier 4 in our local area. During the last couple of days, I have been discussing with staff our response to the pandemic growing and moving ever nearer. I have collected their thoughts and opinions and would like to bring these together and share with you some updates.

I would like to start by assuring you that all our decisions are made with the safety and well-being of the pupils, staff and parents at the forefront. We have remained flexible and adaptable during the past few months, which I believe has been a strength of the school. So, looking forward to the spring term, here are some reminders and updates:

- Mrs Jeffery and I will be updating the school's risk assessment tomorrow, and we will make sure this will be uploaded to our website by the end of the day.
- After discussion and much thought, I have decided that if staff wish to wear a mask in school, that should be their personal choice which I will support. This will be particularly important in one to one or small group work. Some teachers have decided not to, especially those teaching the younger years. Whole class teaching, from the front of the class and where social distancing is possible, will not require a mask. Likewise, if your child wishes to wear a mask, we believe by now they have become accustomed to seeing society adapt to this and it should be a decision you can make together. Hopefully this is a sensible, and not controversial move!
- Some children have started to bring an increasing number of items in from home. Please do not allow this as they have everything they need provided in school. If you are unsure, please speak to the office, or check back to the original letter that explains what can and cannot be brought in.
- We intend to take extra precautions within school and make sure our systems are tight and controlled to the highest standard we can achieve.

Assemblies will be held via Google Meet, staff will wear masks at the gate, the staff room will not be used, there will be no visitors to the school, including after school sports clubs. This is a constantly reviewed situation.

- Before and after school provision will continue, but we are currently finding staffing this a challenge so will reviewed regularly. Please collect your children promptly at the end of the day, and book them in in advance so that we have due notice of who is in attendance. There will be a separate email which will discuss this in more detail next week. At this time, please do not use the provision if you are able to find alternative arrangements.
- Please do not stay for longer than necessary at drop off and collection times, and always remain socially distanced from others. Please do not allow your children to mix with those in a different bubble, as we have made all efforts to keep them apart all day. We do not discourage the use of masks at this time. We want to avoid staggering the day again.
- Most importantly, I urge you sincerely to stick to the current guidelines, and do not mix with people who are not within your bubble-household, support or childcare (only for childcare needs) bubble. This is the most important factor for protecting our children and staff and to enable the school to keep fully open. Because children mix at school, it does not mean they can mix out of school socially, this is purely to keep them in school in this learning environment and reducing time together will help.
- Please be extra vigilant. If your child shows signs of illness, be cautious. Phone the school if you are concerned about their attendance. We need to be safe and not sorry.

I hope that receiving this information from the school will give you a chance to speak to your children before Monday so they are prepared for the changes. I am very sure they will be adaptable as always.

I will write to you again soon, but until then, I look forward to welcoming you back next week.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ballam