



Rothwell Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 3rd April 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all managing to adjust to the huge changes to our daily lives that we all are undergoing; from changes in family dynamics, home schooling, financial pressures, self-isolation, combined with the pressures of working, working from home or the front line. It really has been an unprecedented time and we really do send our best wishes to you all.

There are many things that we do not have control over at this time which leaves us unsettled and worried. That being said, there are many things we do have control over. We can take the time to stop and really think about what truly matters to us and how we can ensure these things are top of our priorities. I have spoken to several families, and several of my own friends, who are experiencing the 'joys' of home schooling. As a school we are thinking very carefully about how we strike that important balance of providing resources to help you to best support your children, as well as recognising many of the pressures you will also be under. The leadership team and I have had many discussions about what we feel will be the best approach for this after the Easter holidays; we are currently finalising how we intend to do this.

Once again, our fantastic staff team have been going 'over and above' to help the children of critical workers and our vulnerable pupils. So self-less, caring and committed in all they do. There are members of the team working hard, both in school and at home, working to try to ensure we are able to support you and your families as best we can during this unusual time.

Resources to Support:

We have added a new section onto our website to make it easier to find anything linked to these unusual times. If you go onto the menu, you will now see a new section called: **RPS—COVID-19 Information**. In here you will find folders with key information and links to support you during this challenging time. Folders are:

- * Newsletters,
- * Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- * Cluster and External Agency Information
- * Online Safety

The current uncertainty regarding many aspects at the moment can understandably lead to both adults and children feeling worried or anxious. In the Social, Emotional and Mental Health section, there is an article from 'Living with worry and anxiety amidst global uncertainty'. This is a really interesting read and has a great 'Top Tips' section.

We recognise that these increased pressures may also lead to more stress and, unfortunately, more incidents such as domestic violence. Again, there is information about support and how to access this in the Cluster and External Agency Support section mentioned above. Leeds Domestic Violence Service is a 24 hour helpline- 0113 246 0401.

Another vital service available for families is Silver Cloud. This provides: **help for parent/carers to support young people with mental health issues. Free and unlimited access to online support for parents/carers. The website contains programmes and tools for adults who are experiencing emotional well-being difficulties during the current situation. There are specific modules on stress, resilience, sleep and some general wellbeing tips.**

<https://nhs.silvercloudhealth.com/signup/>

Also in the Cluster/Agency section is information regarding support for families who are in need, including information regarding food banks and other financial support.

As always, we are here to support you all and help support or signpost any services which may be able to help. If it is something confidential you wish to discuss about any of the matters above, please e-mail the usual admin e-mail address and just ask for a member of the pastoral team to contact you.

Free School Meals Entitlement.

As you will be aware, because we still have catering on site for the small number of children attending school, we have been able to provide 'grab bags' for families who are entitled to free school meals. **Please note: this is something which is normally only done during term time.** However, we are always trying to do the best for our families. *For those who are entitled to FSM, we are looking into a way to provide a similar 'grab bag' service over the Easter Holiday period.* **Please e-mail us by 2pm on Sunday 5th April if you would like to access this.** We are currently working with Leeds City Council to see how we can provide the food vouchers for families entitled for free school meals, **with this aiming to start after the Easter holidays. It is essential that we have your most recent e-mail address on your Parent Pay account**, in order to set this system up. Please check your ParentPay account. Any difficulties, please contact us at our usual e-mail address: admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk



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ParentPay Payments and Refunds.

Our fantastic admin team have been working hard to ensure that all payments for Kidz Club, Breakfast Club and dinner money have been reimbursed on Parentpay.

For any payments that have been made for the Phase 3/4 Royal Armouries visit (£9.50) and Y5 Cricket in the Classroom (£5), we will be looking into this straight after Easter.

Year 4—Buckden Residential - As you are aware, this residential is not due to take place until June. At present, we do not know how long the current situation and partial closure of schools will be in place. Currently, this has not been cancelled, however, we will be liaising with Buckden House and will update you once we have more information.

Reception National Offer Day 16 April 2020

Parent/Carers who applied online for a Reception place for September 2020 will receive an offer email from admissions from 8am onwards on 16th April 2020; those who did not apply online will receive a posted letter sent on 16 April.

For Parent/Carers wishing to accept places, please e-mail us at admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk confirming your acceptance. If you require further information, please e-mail on this day and we will make contact.

During the Easter holidays, school will remain open for staff to support the critical workers and vulnerable pupils, however other aspects will be on hold over this time which would be the Easter holidays. As I'm sure you will appreciate, staff have been amazing at going over and above and they will need time to stop and be with their own families. I would therefore ask you for your understanding in terms of responding to non-urgent e-mails.

That being said, we are here and will be checking e-mails for the critical worker communications and other urgent support you may need. For all non-urgent enquiries, these will be answered after the holidays.

Over the holidays, we will be posting several challenges for the children to take part in. It has been great to see so many of you joining in with your Rainbows - see a sample below. Please check out the Facebook post for more. It really made us all smile!

Keep checking our Facebook posts for updates and fun challenges. In the words of our RPS song, 'We're united by our positivity!' We are and will get through this together!

Keep safe. The next Newsletter will be Friday 17th April.

All the best. Make the most of time together. X

Leila Rothenburg





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As we go into what would usually be the Easter Holidays, we remain open for a small group of critical worker and vulnerable children.

If you are not going to be using your place, please e-mail school, even if it is the day before or that morning. The earlier the better, although we understand that this may be last minute for those on call. Sending an e-mail, even that morning before school, is helpful.

If you do not need the place and do not contact us from this point, we may not be able to guarantee your place. We organise staffing numbers based on the number of children who are expected in school.

Thanks again to the team who are supporting children and families next week.

The children will be in Class 3 next week and can still wear their outdoor PE kit. School lunches are provided for those who would usually access one.

Children will need to bring a named drink bottle with them and a coat.

We will be looking at provision for after the Easter holidays. If you already know about the provision you will or will not need, please keep us informed as soon as you are aware. Even if this is a last minute change, please e-mail us.

As mentioned above, you will need to enter through the main gate and come onto the main playground to access Class 3. As stated previously, please do not enter the school building; please follow social distancing guidelines and complete an up-to-date medical form if you have not done so already.

The school office will be closed. If your child is in school with us and you need to collect your child earlier, or speak to a member of staff with your child, there is an emergency number to call. This number has been shared and is available for you when you drop your child off in school. It is only to be used for urgent contact, when your child is in school—it is also on the office door if you have arrived early to collect your child. For anything else, please e-mail school on admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk

We are proud that we have offered your children a fun experience and that we are able to support you through the Easter holidays. Thanks for the many comments regarding the support we are offering.

Kind regards

Leila Rothenburg