



Rothwell Primary School



Newsletter Friday 15th May

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all, we hope you and your families are managing as best you can during these difficult times.

I am sure you are aware, it has been yet another quiet week in the world of education and beyond!

I know you may have questions in response to the Prime Minister's announcement and the further guidance - indeed we all have many questions - but I have really appreciated your patience in waiting and not e-mailing unnecessarily. This will continue to be important as we develop a plan that is considered safe and right for our children, staff and community.

I feel passionately that one of the strengths we have as a school community is the way in which parents and carers are so supportive and we are able to really work together to ensure the best for our children. This is something that I am very protective of and, if I am honest, something that I really want to protect over the next few months. With the increased twists and turns in government policy, media reporting and social media, at times trying to portray schools and headteachers as 'being difficult', I really do need you to trust that the leadership team, governors and myself will do our utmost to try to implement this next stage.

There are so many uncertainties, mixed messages and a real lack of clarity in so many of the messages we are currently being given. Even within the last few days, the rafts of government guidance from the DFE around this next stage has changed dramatically, almost by the day. During this time I have been liaising closely with the headteachers of other schools in our Family of Schools, which includes all local primaries and our two main secondary links. We have also been in Zoom meetings with our local authority and we are working closely with our unions to ensure that the directive we are being given is considered and safe. Our governing body continue to work closely with myself and the team, and will be involved in discussions and agreements about what this next stage looks like for our school.



As Leeds schools, we are all united, but not uniform. It is important to recognise that every school will have its own unique factors to consider as we all vary greatly in: the number of key worker and vulnerable children we have in each year group; the size and layout of our buildings; the number of staff who are able to come into work; the number of staff who are 'shielding' as well as many other factors. What is right for one school may not be right for another. It is therefore important not to make comparisons and judgements between schools. As leaders, this is the time when we are all stepping up and making challenging decisions, with guidance which is ever changing.

Over the next few months, there are so many difficult decisions ahead. I feel very strongly that we will not be forced into making decisions that are unsafe for our children, families and my incredible staff. Knowing that we can rely on your support will make this so much easier. It is absolutely a time where rainbows, understanding and positivity will be essential for all.

At half term, we will be open for a small number of keyworker children, who are currently using the provision.



Rothwell Primary School



Newsletter Friday 15th May

There are some key sections from the guidance that has been provided, which I think is important to share with you:

At present, the government have not met any of the 5 tests for easing measures and there are a vast number of factors which need to be met.

We have been told to expect numerous guidance documents from the Government, the Local Authority and Unions. It would be premature to start communicating information at this stage, as it would be likely to all change if the past week is anything to go by.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Please continue to trust that we will do right by your amazing children and our wonderful staff.

Parent/Carer Feedback

The staff team have been working hard, along with yourselves and your children, to implement home learning. For years 1–6, we asked you to complete a questionnaire to gather your feedback and thoughts. Thank you so much to all parents who responded. We received 159 responses from across KS1 and KS2, which is fantastic.

Here is the overall data for a few key questions:

<i>Key question</i>	<i>% who strongly agree or agreed. (Based on 159 responses).</i>
<i>I have found the responses to my child's work useful in supporting learning</i>	86%
<i>The newsletter has helped to keep me well informed and up-to-date with developments</i>	93%
<i>My child has enjoyed seeing the staff videos and messages</i>	91%
<i>I am pleased with the learning that has been provided for my child.</i>	92%
<i>We feel that Rothwell Primary has been supporting us well during this difficult time.</i>	96%

This is testament to how hard the staff have worked and how hard you have worked to support your children with their learning. A huge well done to yourselves and our great staff team. We also received a few constructive comments and we will be looking though these over the coming days to see if there are any tweaks we can make from your feedback.

Over the last few weeks we have been leaving messages on Google Classroom or Tapestry for your children. Today we have a video for you to watch. Please visit our Facebook Page, we hope it makes you smile!

Kind regards

Leila Rothenburg



Rothwell Primary School

**Thank you for your positivity!
We really do appreciate it.**



Here are a few lovely comments from parents from our recent questionnaire on Google Classrooms. Thanks also for a few useful ideas, we will take on board as many of these as we can.

KS1

- * We feel school have been brilliant during this time. My child is enjoying doing the work and loves getting the messages back from her teachers, it really makes her feel like she still has a link to normality in these strange times! The staff have been brilliant, if I've needed any help with anything they have responded promptly. Thank you so much for all your hard work!
- * I think Rothwell Primary School have done an amazing job in setting up the Google Classroom. They have made it quite easy for us with the information on informing us how to set it up and get started. They were also quickly on hand if we had any problems with it. My child has really enjoyed doing his work at his own pace and has loved seeing all the comments about his work, giving him the confidence to want to do more. Its also lovely to see the teacher's videos and stories, which makes him feel a bit more closer to his classroom. I also think its great that they haven't put any pressure on families with the school work and are more concerned about the children's well-being and their families. A massive well done to all the staff and thank you all for your hard work. We are very proud to say our boys go to Rothwell Primary School.

Lower KS2

- * As parents, we are more than satisfied and feel reassured how the school has dealt with the current situation, and are delighted with the school work provided. Thank you all very much for your hard work during these difficult times.
- * We would like to say a BIG BIG thank you to all of the amazing staff at Rothwell Primary School who continue to go above and beyond during this strange time. My child has particularly enjoyed watching videos of the teachers and the story telling. These little clips are like a ray of sunshine and help him feel connected to school even though he physically can't go. He is missing his friends and teachers a lot. He's even been visiting school on Google Earth to say hello. We hope you are all well and stay safe. Thank you x
- * The work provided for both our children is fantastic! Many thanks for your hard work through these difficult times!
- * The amount of work that has been put in by staff is really appreciated. My child is enjoying his learning and making progress. He feels encouraged by the individual responses to his work. We are very grateful to all of the staff who have been involved and hope that they are still able to enjoy time with their own families. You really are all going above and beyond. Thank you!
- * I think the staff at Rothwell Primary have been outstanding in their support and care in these unprecedented times.

Upper KS2

- * We have found Google Classroom a very straightforward interface, and my child feels very confident using it. I think the work you did at school about emails and using Gmail has definitely helped, I'm still not allowed to know her password! I feel the you have set the work at a good level, and having the split of the more important work and less important has helped take the pressure off, especially on days when it has been a real challenge to get her to engage in working. The feed back is great, she really enjoys reading your comments. Thank you for all your hard work
- * We think you are doing a great job in difficult times. The communication is as important as the work and I know the boys love hearing from their teachers and Google Classroom allows that interaction if needed.
- * Thank you to all the staff and RPS, to have a little consistency in a very unusual world has helped my child. When I speak to friends whose children are in other schools, it really highlights what an amazing job you guys are all doing.
- * Thank you for helping make the job of home schooling a lot easier for us parents.