



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have managed to have some time together over the half term. As you will be aware, we remained open for key worker children and I'd like to once again thank my fantastic team for working during half term to enable our key workers to continue to do the great work that they do. We have continued to receive so many positive comments and emails - thanks again for your support. A special thank you to one of our families for this thoughtful gift, with a lovely message on. What a thoughtful gesture. We also had a lovely email from a parent who said how much their children had enjoyed coming back into school this week. These things make us smile. Thanks



This week we have extended our provision, with an increased number of key worker places, and extended our offers for our vulnerable children. Next week, for example, we have allocated a total of 80 places (some full-time, some part-time) which has meant a reorganisation of the 'bubbles' and the space needed to keep everyone safe. As I'm sure you'll understand, as per government guidance, we are quite rightly prioritising these groups.

As previously mentioned, all schools are in a different position in terms of the number of key worker places and vulnerable places they need to provide. Other aspects that are used to inform decisions include the size of the building, the layout of classes, the usual number of children in each year group, the usual number of staff and the number of staff shielding in-line with the recommendations. For example, some schools have only a quarter of the requests for key worker and vulnerable places, so they are able offer more places for set year groups. As this is the case, any comparisons between schools are unhelpful. I am in regular contact with many of the local headteachers and we are sharing ideas, but all are in very different positions and all doing what we think is best to meet the needs of our own school community.

We have 9 classrooms alongside one side of the school and 2 classrooms the other side of school. We are having a maximum of 15 children in a bubble as per the guidance. Some bubbles will have fewer children (12/13) due to the size of the room.

Our provisional plan for this half term:

Week 1 1.6.20	Week 2 8.6.20	Week 3 15.6.20	Week 4 22.6.20	Week 5 29.6.20	Week 6 6.7.20	Week 7 13.7.20
Key worker and vulnerable children (80 children).						
	Reception Monday -Thurs	Reception Monday -Thurs	Reception Monday -Thurs	Year 6 Monday- Fri	To be confirmed.	
		Year 1 Monday -Thurs	Year 1 Monday -Thurs	Year 1 Monday -Thurs		

Why have we made these decisions?

We completed a detailed risk assessment, taking into account the number of adults in school and spaces available to teach, and feel this is the best way for us to make this work for our children.

The majority have been at home for a long period of time and we decided a three week block (rather than odd days each week or alternate weeks) is the best way to reintegrate children into school life. It will provide a longer period to transition, building their routine each day and supporting their wellbeing, as well as helping them to build on their key learning skills. As staff cannot swap bubbles within the week, the part-time model was not an option for us.

We recognise that this may not be the ideal for some of you, but we are trying to make things work as best we can under these difficult circumstances. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

No-one wants all of our children back in school more than we do – but only when it is safe to do so.

I feel pleased that the measures we have taken, balancing these two aspects effectively to minimise risks and provide our children with a positive experience.

Reception children

If you requested a place for your child in Reception, your information pack was delivered yesterday. For those who did not request a place, if you do wish your child to access the Reception provision from June 15th – for the last two weeks - please email us by 9am on Tuesday 9th June, so we can look at the bubbles and staffing for the following week. This will be the deadline for any Reception places as stated in the email you should have received earlier today. Please note - we are looking at how we can incorporate transition into these last two weeks.

Year 1 children

If you requested a place for your child in Year 1, your information pack was delivered yesterday. For those who did not request a place in Year 1, if you do wish your child to access this place from June 22nd – for the last two weeks - please email us by 9am on Tuesday 9th June, so we can look at the bubbles and staffing for the following week. This will be the deadline for any Year 1 places as stated in the email you should have received earlier today. Please note - we are looking at how we can incorporate transition into these last two weeks.

Year 6

For Year 6, we want this to be a positive experience and are currently planning things which will be possible for that week. We are liaising with our two local High Schools to see if we can link up virtually, as the focus from the government is around transition for Year 6 pupils. For pupils not able to access school, we will look at how you can also join the work around transition.

If your child is in year 6, you should have been receiving information from their high school regarding your child's transition. They have set up virtual tours and many other things which may be helpful. Please contact them directly if you have not received any information.

Please complete this survey if your child is in Year 6.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9ckWhG8XDAk1JrqtNqevsxVdv8HH-pNUkUYUL5RfGXAht9w/viewform?usp=sf_link

As promised for year 6 children, *when the time is safe to do so*, we will have a big celebration back here at school to celebrate all your fantastic achievements.

We still have so many children who are at home and are unsure of when they will be able to return to school. We will continue to provide home learning for these year groups and are looking at ways for your children to engage live with their teachers/peers for possible weekly sessions. Please keep messaging on Google Classroom in the group chat, as this is a good way to link with your teacher and friends.

Please check out our school Facebook Page via Facebook, or scroll down on our school website page. We have posted several videos, some included whole staff, others linked to a particular phase with lovely photos of your children from earlier on in the year. I will warn you now – tissues at the ready. I'm looking forward to seeing the Y3/4 compilation today.

We are aware that some children at home are starting to find this next stage more difficult. Please contact us; we are here to support you and your children. Just email admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk and ask a member of the pastoral team to give you a call. This is a difficult time and it has never been more important to be united and work together to ensure we all just do our best under very challenging circumstances.

A big thank you to my amazing team. You have once again gone over and above to ensure our children are safe and happy. Your warm, caring and nurturing approach is recognised and appreciated by us all.

I would also like to thank our governing board; they have been extremely supportive in ensuring we get things right for our children, staff and school community. I feel very lucky to have such a strong group who will advise, support and ask insightful questions, and not just during this pandemic. They have helped us to be in a strong position moving forward.

All the best.
Enjoy the weekend.

Leila Rothenburg