

Rothwell Primary School,  
Carlton Lane,  
Rothwell  
Leeds  
LS26 0DJ



Headteacher: Mrs Leila Rothenburg

Tel: 0113 3862570

Email: [admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk)

Website: [www.rothwellprimary.co.uk](http://www.rothwellprimary.co.uk)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is really difficult for me to even begin to share the number of changes that are facing schools at this time. Even as the headteacher, I am finding it difficult to comprehend the extent of the huge demands we are facing, almost daily. Since the last newsletter, headteachers were informed (on Friday evening) that if they did not open Nursery by Census Day (yesterday), funding would be cut, having a huge impact on the school budget. Like many schools, this has really stretched our staffing capacity, however, we had no option financially. We therefore organised a swift change of plan, re-organised staff, and an updated a risk assessment in order to implement this change to the school provision and open Nursery. We were then be told – on Census Day - that the DFE had, once again, made a u-turn on this, and we would have still been funded.

We have also had to manage the arrangements, procedures and protocols for implementing the self-testing process, which we will begin on Monday. These just highlight some of the additional demands we are dealing with.

I pride myself on eternal optimism and always finding a way to make the best out of whatever comes our way, for our children, families and staff. Please be reassured that our determination to do this is stronger than ever; I just think it is important to share some of the immense challenges and changes we are facing.

With that in mind, I would like to thank our governors for their ongoing support. I feel very grateful that they have a real understanding of what we need to do to make the best for our whole school community, and their commitment and support is greatly appreciated.

We are all in a new world of learning. School staff have once again stepped up and offered our children a great learning and SEMH offer. They have had to learn whole new ways of working, using new technology and approaches to teaching. As well as our core learning offer, this week our Reception children working at home enjoyed a Zoom call with their teacher, and the children in Years 1-6 enjoyed using Google Meet with their teachers. One session enabled a live 'check-in' promoting social interaction, whilst a second session provided an opportunity to join a live guided reading session. I would like to say how proud I am of the way the team have been brave and tried these ways of learning - it is new for us all. The technology can be temperamental at times, but I am so proud of the way the team has role-modelled resilience and perseverance.

The feedback from children and parents has been so positive - thank you all so much. It really does matter and it does make a difference. Next week, we are once again hoping to provide all children with a live check in session, and for children in Years 1-6, we are also hoping to provide a guided reading session, just as we have done this week. If your child has not managed to join one of these yet, it is a wonderful way for them to see their friends and members of staff, as well as learning together. Hopefully you should receive an email today outlining the likely times for these sessions next week. However, there are so many factors that could influence this: bubble closures for children and staff; staff having to isolate; limited staff linked to bubbles, plus many other factors. If any session has to be re-arranged, please understand that this will only happen if necessary.

As I stated last week, we understand the pressures and demands of home-learning. Helping your child to access part of the learning is still really helpful, even if you can't complete it all. If you are struggling for time, devices or trying to balance your own work demands, English and Mathematics are the priority subjects. Your child can hand their work in, even if they have not managed to complete the wider curriculum tasks - this way they will still receive feedback.



For children in KS1 and KS2, if you turn the work in on a different day to when it was set, please just post a message in the private comment box on GC and someone will then be able to look at this for you and provide feedback.

### **This week for our remote learning offer:**

- ✓ Teachers have made a daily, home learning video, welcoming the children to the morning, sharing any key learning points from the previous day, and introducing the learning set for the day. Children have been set English, Mathematics and a wider curriculum topic (plus phonics for EYFS and KS1 children) using Google Classroom or Tapestry. Staff have been responding to children's work and answering questions in the comments section.
- ✓ Your child can access 'Rising Stars' to read their online reading books which they have been allocated, as well as other IT programmes set within each year group: TT Rockstars, Spelling Frame...
- ✓ For children at home, have been able to hold the 'Check-in' session with groups of children. This is a great way to support children's connection and wellbeing, and is one of the most important parts for our children.
- ✓ A daily physical challenge or link will be posted on Google Classroom.
- ✓ Stories or chapters from the class novel have been added to your child's Google Stream/Tapestry account.
- ✓ We have also tried the live guided reading format with children from years 1-6.

The children in school have also had a range of fantastic opportunities this week. This has included many aspects of the remote learning offer in terms of English, Maths and the wider curriculum, as well as check-in sessions to support their SEMH needs.

### **COVID Update – children at home**

Please notify the school of any positive cases of COVID, even if your child is accessing remote learning and hasn't been in school. We have been asked to add this information to a daily form which we return to the DfE. If your child has not been in school for the last week, please title the subject 'Positive case – remote learning'.

### **COVID Update - children attending school:**

As shared previously, the measures below still apply, however, *I do need to stress the importance of parents socially distancing and keeping 2m+ apart from each other, particularly at the end of the school day, when collecting children.* With the increased transmissibility of this disease, this is more important than ever.

- PLEASE DO NOT send your child to school if they have any of the three main COVID symptoms.
  - A high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
  - A new continuous cough.
  - A loss or change to their sense of taste or smell.
- If they have a positive result – please email us immediately with the subject named as POSITIVE TEST and a copy of the confirmation, so we can review any action that may need taking to keep people safe. [admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk)
- If your child has to isolate, they must stay at home. If they have siblings that need dropping off and you have no-one who can support you with this, please contact the school office and we will work with you to find a solution.
- Please email the results, even if it is a household member, before bringing your child back to school.
- If you are outside, within 1 metre of another parent for 1 minute (with or without a mask) you would be classed as a close contact if they were to have the virus. People are contagious from 2 days before they even have any symptoms. This would mean you would have to isolate for 14 days if Test and Trace had to track close contacts. Please try to maintain 2m+.
- If your child shows any of the 3 symptoms, we have to contact you to ask you to isolate as a household and anyone with symptoms must then access a test. This is the same for children across the country. As a parent



myself, I understand the difficulties and additional stress this may cause, but we have to do everything we can to keep our school community as safe as possible.

- Please follow the 1 way system at all times please.
- Please try to ensure only 1 family member enters the school site to drop off or collect children, in order to reduce unnecessary risks.

As I said last week, January can be a difficult time of year at the best of times, never mind with all of the uncertainty this pandemic has brought. None of us are perfect parents; be kind to yourselves. Please take a moment to reflect on the many things you have achieved this week - there will be many - then do the same with your children. They really are remarkable. Celebrate something they have enjoyed, something they have tried hard at, something they have learned... these moments and memories really matter.

I loved seeing so many of our children on our live Zoom Assemblies today. It was new learning for me too! I can honestly say, it has been the best part of my week, seeing our children and coming together, even if it is in a very different way for many. The assembly links will remain the same, so please save for next week too. I will hopefully see you all in assembly next Friday. Just a reminder regarding the assemblies: please try to ensure that your child is in a communal area, their Zoom name is changed to their first name and an adult is nearby to provide support if needed.

Our superstars from today's celebration assembly were:

**Class 1** Arya F, William M, **Class 1/2** Mila B, Daisy D, **Class 2** Thalia B, Frankie D,

**Class 3** Benjamin H, Chloe N **Class 3/4** Benjamin AW, Emilia B **Class 4** Analyz C, Louis C

**Class 5** Callum K, Simona J **Class 5/6** Scarlett C, Holly S, **Class 6** Alex H, Kristian B

These were children who have been working in school and children who have been working at home. Your certificates are on their way!

As always, we are here to offer support or signpost you towards any other areas that might help - just get in touch.

Many thanks, keep safe.

Leila Rothenburg

Headteacher