

Arrangements for September

Dear Parents,

Firstly, a huge, huge thank you to each one of you for your patience, kindness, understanding and support over the last term. When I reflect, I remember deliberating over decisions such as snow days or sports days with a real sense of how important they were. The scale of this term's closure has been monumental in comparison and you have all been amazing!

To help you all begin to plan for September I felt it would be useful to outline what will be happening in school. The following arrangements will stay in place until the Spring Term when we will review them and write to you again.

The following arrangements conform to the new guidance provided to schools last week by the government. My Risk Assessment will be uploaded on to the school website for parents to see and you are very welcome to make any suggestions or comments you wish. We all simply want to keep our children as safe as possible so if you have an idea it will be welcome.

The guidance for September, allows each individual school to determine the size of each of their own bubbles. My Risk Assessment and the practicalities of running wrap-around care means that we will have two bubbles: KS1 and KS2.

Our priority will be keeping our pupils safe and well. Therefore, the hygiene systems and cleaning regime in school will continue as it currently is. Bubbles will be kept apart and contact between pupils and staff will remain limited. However, the DfE have lifted social distancing restrictions in school between pupils who are in the same bubble. This means we can open full-time for all of pupils and we cannot wait!

Local lockdown

The school has in place an action plan in the event of a 'local lockdown' or if a bubble needs to self-isolate. I am assured by Public Health England that we are 'a country mile,' from that being necessary in Lincolnshire; nevertheless, it is sensible to be prepared.

During the last term, we made the decision to apply for a grant from the DfE that has allowed us to install and set up Microsoft Teams across our whole school; every child has an account. Teachers have been and will continue to be training in order to ensure that we can move seamlessly to a blended learning program if school is required to close.

In September, all parents will receive further information about our use of Microsoft Teams and we will use it regularly to support online meetings such as Parents Consultation events. Blended Learning Agreements will be sent out to parents early in September.

Staffing

On the whole there are very few changes to staffing for next year. Teachers will remain with the year groups they had last year and stay in the same classrooms too. The following are the only two changes:

Mrs Wynne has made the decision to reduce the days that she is in school. Thankfully, she is staying with us but she will now share the teaching in Years 3/4 with Mrs Harrison. Mrs Wynne and Mrs Harrison work beautifully together and their subject specialisms complement one another too.

Mrs Haigh has done incredibly well and has gained a place within a Teacher Training program – not an easy task normally but especially difficult during the last few months. She will become a student teacher in September and luckily for us will complete most of her training based at Ropsley. We are delighted for her!

Uniform

We will return to wearing our school uniform in September.

The beginning and end of a school day

The system currently in place for dropping children off in the morning seems to be working well. Therefore, we intend to continue the same process.

Reception, Year 2 and 3/4 will enter school through the main gates.

Years 1, 5 and 6 are asked to use the top gate.

Children are asked to arrive at school between **8:40 and 9am**. Again, we ask parents not to linger and not to enter the school building. Teachers will be waiting in classrooms for pupils to arrive. If you need to pass a message on please use Class Dojo or, if it is urgent, ring the school office. A member of staff will be available at the gates to help you.

- Children in Reception will enter/leave school through the main doors. Their pick-up time is 2:50pm.

We understand that children in Reception may need a little help to ‘settle in’ before they can simply be left at the door. Mrs Hickey or Mrs Handley will be available on the playground for a week or two.

- Children in Year 1 will enter/leave school through their outside door, which is at the back of the building. Their pick-up time is 3pm.
- Children in Year 2 will use the small black door off the playground. Their pick-up time is 3:10pm.
- Children in 3/4 will enter through the door at the rear of their classroom. It can be accessed from the left-hand side of the school. Their pick-up time is 3:20pm.
- Children in 5/6 will use the main mobile classroom door. Their pick-up time is 3:30pm.

I realise that some families will have children in two or more year groups and we may be asking them to drop off at different gates we apologise for the inconvenience that causes. We are also aware that the pick-up times are a little earlier than usual and for some parents who again, may have children in several classes, this is tricky. If this is the case for you, please have a chat - we may be able to help.

Leaving school earlier also impacts on the amount of time children are learning. For this reason, lunchtime for pupils in KS1 will be reduced to an hour.

Lunchtime

Unfortunately, we cannot at the moment operate a hot school meals service safely so we will

continue to ask Ideal Meals to provide packed lunches for our pupils. The children will have picnics outside if possible but will eat indoors in their classroom if the weather is poor.

Visits and visitors

Guidance continues to prevent us from running educational visits or trips or welcoming visitors during the Autumn Term. This includes swimming, peripatetic teachers, such as chess, and music tutors. Some of our music teachers are offering tuition online and where this is offered the school will whole-heartedly accept. Swimming is an important life skill and we are keen for all of our children to begin swimming again so it is our intention to begin in January with those year groups who have missed out during the Summer Term attending first.

Visitors who are essential to the wellbeing of our pupils such as counsellors or SEND support teams will be allowed. As will those visitors necessary to the safety of the school premises; such as our water testers or maintenance team. These visitors will be asked to follow strict infection control processes.

Physical Education

Teachers will advise parents about which days their child is doing PE. On that day, children should attend school in PE kit all day. We are asking parents to supply tracksuits and trainers rather than plimsolls as all PE will be outside. Navy blue tracksuits are readily available at supermarkets please do not feel the need to provide branded clothes.

Breakfast Club and Rascals

Both clubs will begin on Monday September 7th. We will have separate provision for KS1 and KS2, with separate tables and a self-service station for KS2. There will also be changes to the way we ask parents to book. We will set a cap at 15 pupils in each bubble; however, we do not think this will limit our capacity based on previous use.

Teacher led after school clubs

There will be no after school clubs such as Art or Club for the Autumn Term. Instead, teachers will use the time to run 'catch up' sessions for pupils in order to support them with gaps in their learning; these will be by invitation only. We will write to you before Christmas to advise you about the after school clubs available in the Spring Term – we do understand how important these are for the children and key to a rich and varied curriculum.

Festivities and Celebrations

In a Church School, such as Ropsley events including our Harvest Festival and Christmas plays are enormously important to us.

I feel it is better not to plan these events too soon as I do not wish to rule out options that could open up to us a little later on. For instance some activities, such as singing in Church, are simply not currently possible but may be nearer to Christmas. I can unequivocally promise you that we are determined to find a way to mark these events and make them joyful for our families. Both our PTA and Staff teams are incredibly creative.

The dates for events will be provided early in September and followed up with the details as we get closer to each one .

In the meantime, every member of staff at Ropsley School send their love and very best wishes. We hope you all have an enjoyable and very sunny, summer break.

Kind regards
Ann Cook