



Rye Community Primary School & Pugwash Nursery
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7ND
www.ryeprimary.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of School: Miss Kelly Martin



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Tuesday, 5th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely welcoming back children to school today, one can only hope that soon we will be able to welcome back all children! However, in being closed to the majority of children, we are playing our part to protect the NHS and save lives. I write with further details for remote learning and provision of free school meals.

Free School Meal provision

We have received information today that at the current time, the Government will not be providing the weekly payment vouchers for children eligible for free school meals, but each school has been directed to work with their catering provider to provide a food package for their children in receipt of free school meals and universal free school meals (for all infant pupils). Rye Community Primary and Rye College share the same catering provider and as such, to reduce the workforce in line with the directive to work from home if at all possible, the Primary meal preparations will move to the College Kitchen. All families who are entitled to Free School Meals will be able to collect a freshly made packed lunch each day, from the Rye College Main Reception, any time after 12.30pm, **starting tomorrow**. Please only send one adult from your household to collect the packed lunch. Each child in your household who is eligible for a packed lunch will be able to book a lunch. However, the caterers need to know by **10am tomorrow morning (Wednesday 6th January)** how many packed lunches they will need to prepare. Therefore, could you please email office@ryeprimary.co.uk by 10am tomorrow morning to advise us whether your child requires a packed lunch. Please make it clear in your email whether your child is already in school or whether you will be collecting the packed lunch. All children in school who are entitled to free school meals as described above, universal or income related, are welcome to have a packed lunch made for them each day, which will be delivered from the College to the Primary. However, this must also be booked in advance by 10am tomorrow, for this week. If you normally pay for school meals you can still do this through your online account, but also email the office. No cash will be accepted and the only option available is a packed lunch. If you commit to having a packed lunch this will need to be a daily commitment for that week, as the kitchen will need to have accurate numbers for food orders and food preparation purposes. The orders will usually need to be with the office by 3pm each Friday for the following week.

Home learning

Thank you so much to those who have been sending in work to class Dojo today. The teachers have informed me that the response has been brilliant! A really big "thank you and congratulations" to you all for the time and effort in supporting your children with their home learning. I know it is not an easy task, but you have risen to the challenge superbly! I have become aware that there are a small minority of people who are finding the technology around remote learning frustrating. I do understand your frustrations and we are working very hard to support you. I am pleased to announce that we will be sending home 11 laptops this week to enable a smoother remote learning experience. I have discussed with the teachers again today, the need for all families to be able to access work on any device, including a mobile phone. The teachers have assured me that the work they are posting can be viewed on any device and there is no expectation that the children complete the work on the device. The children can read the tasks on their device and then record their work using pen and paper. They can then take a photo of this work and upload to Dojo to show their teacher or parents can email a photo of the work into school. I know technology can be frustrating with poor internet connections etc., however we are pleased to say



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that all of our families now have email addresses and can receive emails from the school, so we are confident that we can work with you to find solutions to help you to help your children with remote learning. Please talk to us and we will do all we can to assist you. There are many reasons why we are not producing paper packs during this lockdown, but we are confident that we can work together to support you and your child. We have had overwhelming positive feedback about the Dojo app as it is very similar to popular social networking sites; which I am sure most of you will be familiar with. One of the reasons we chose class Dojo as a tool to assist us with remote learning is the fact that it is so similar, in the way one can post photographs or comments. Please don't become anxious about remote learning, we want you to be able to enjoy the experience with your child if possible! As I have said, you don't need to worry about ink in your printer to print everything out and children do not need a laptop each to complete work, there are creative ways around this to encourage your children to develop the all important life skills of sharing and turn taking; siblings could be encouraged to take turns to complete their daily reading challenge whilst the other copies the activity from the device. As explained above, the work designed, is largely to be viewed on a device and then completed with pen and paper or on the computer if you so choose, there may be times when a teacher uploads a worksheet, as some parents do like these. However, the teachers will always try to ensure that they upload worksheets which can still be completed, even if they are not able to be printed. If you have siblings all desperate for the same device, then please do contact us and we can supply you with a device. Initially we will supply one device per family, however if demand allows we may then be able to allocate more laptops to families with multiple siblings in school. I know many of our teachers have written statements similar to the one below, from Dolphins page, which I have included in this letter to explain this further. Our staff are more than happy to work with you to find ways of supporting you and your child. Yesterday, I informed you that you would be contacted by staff at least once a week and I know many of those calls have already happened today. You can communicate with your child's teacher via email or Dojo, you don't need to wait for the call if you really need to speak to someone, you can!

I hope this goes some way to reassure you.

If you would like to apply for a laptop and you haven't already done so, could you please email office@ryeprimary.co.uk.

Those of you who have already applied will be receiving a loan policy and agreement to read and if you are in agreement with the terms and you reply via email to this effect, a member of our team will be in touch with you to organise delivery of the laptop to you. Remote learning completely electronically allows us to keep our school as safe as possible by further limiting the amount of people in school and coming into school at any one time to collect packs. We are more than happy to deliver a laptop which allows you to access home learning at any time, this also keeps my staff safer as they only need to deliver a device to you once, rather than potentially being out every day delivering packs, when we have a Nationwide "stay at home" order. Thank you in advance for working with us to help us to help you, in these most challenging of times.

As always, we remain here for you.
Best wishes, stay safe and well.

Miss Martin

Head of School



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Remote learning advice from Mrs Banks, Dolphins class.

Work will be uploaded for each day by 8.30am of that day (at the very latest) but often it will be there well in advance of that.

We have tried to minimise printing off for you this time and ask that your child writes in a lined note pad their answers/work for each lesson. You don't need to print off the sheets attached, rather just view them online and answer questions in their books

Work needs to be completed neatly in pencil/handwriting pen (for those with a pen license) to the standard they would in school. If children could date and label each piece of work completed, that would be very helpful too. All work should be photographed and uploaded daily onto Class Dojo so I can then check it. I will then award Dojo points for work submitted, and comment on the work. (If I ask your child to amend something, please could they re-submit this so I can have a look).

I will be ringing everyone throughout the course of the week to see how you are getting on and I'm also going to be in school this week with the key worker children. If you have any questions please message me on Class Dojo.

I will be putting a timetable on the class page with recommended time to be spent on each activity (as recommended by the Department for Education) and a total of 3 /4 hours per day.

Most work should be completed by children as independently as possible, as in class, with your support if required. If you are finding that your child is really struggling, please contact me and we can discuss the level of work they are on.

I will also provide alternative work for some children who need it, and this will be labelled as 'additional support'. If you are unsure if your child needs this level, please don't hesitate to ask me. Some children will also have separate, daily activities to complete and I will discuss these with individual parents.

I thank you for your support during this difficult time, please remember I am here to support your child (and you) and want the very best for them. We can do this!

I look forward to speaking to you soon, Mrs B.