



Headteacher: Mr Chris Edwards

Reedham Primary and Nursery School
School Hill, Reedham, Norwich NR13 3TJ.
Telephone Number: 01493 700271
Fax Number: 01493 701860
E-mail: office@reedham.norfolk.sch.uk.



Newsletter
Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, we have made it through two weeks and what a positive return to school it has been! The children appear happy to be back, mixing with their friends in their class, who in some cases they haven't seen for a very long time. It has also been a positive start for our long list of newcomers to the school. It is never easy starting a new school but they have all settled well and appear to be enjoying their new school regime at Reedham.

We will be continually assessing each child's mental health as things start to fall into a routine. This is because, whilst for some families lockdown was a very positive and rewarding experience, we are very aware that for some of our pupils (and families) lockdown has been the complete opposite and a traumatic time. This means the children may be fine to start with but difficulties could arise at some point in the future – it may be weeks or months before these sorts of experiences show themselves fully but rest assured we are here to identify and support the children as best as we can.

Thank you to all the parents who have been following the school's risk assessment guidelines set up to keep people as safe as is possible. It is so important to stay vigilant though and not let our guard down as we move into the colder months. We hope to minimise the disruptions at school but this will only happen with your continued help in this matter.

Two weeks in, we have been reviewing practices and how we can ensure we do our part too. The playground drop off and pick up seems to be working quite well. There is not excessive lingering on the premises and people appear to have enough space to drop off or collect their children safely because of the staggered starts. Please try to keep to your allotted time as this is helping to spread out the numbers of people in total on the playground.

With our increased numbers, I had been hoping that the staggered starts would minimise the parking issues around the school. They have to a degree but I have had some residents further down Holly Farm Road asking that cars park sensibly and that drivers stick to speed limits around the village.

Many parents asked about changing the rules for bikes and scooters coming into the school. As only KS2 have been using the main playground initially and can be trusted not to touch other people's property, I am happy that these can come in and be parked under the solar panels. The longer term aim is to have a new bike shelter near to the front entrance to school. I am working on this. If children are coming to school on bikes or scooters, please can they walk their vehicle across the playground. We do not want to see any children on wheels speeding around the playground for obvious safety reasons.

Mrs Bethell's class are using the main playground when the KS2 classes are well out of the way. During these times, they are able to bring out a lot of their own resources to use for play (including their bikes and scooters which are fine to use under supervision and with a much reduced number on the playground). The children in Mrs Bethell's class are not allowed to touch anything fixed to the playground – they shouldn't be on the trim trail, gym equipment, benches etc. as this will cross contaminate the bubbles. This also applies to both before and after school – I appreciate this is frustrating as the younger children will be desperate to use them but for now they need to stay off so we can keep people safe.

All of our procedures are under constant review so if there are other suggestions which you think would improve how things are currently working, please let me know. I am on the playground most days and always welcome a chat and a touch base with how things are going for yourself and your children.

Where possible, we are still trying to limit the number of items coming into the school building. This poses problems in terms of homework with books or other materials. Each class have set up rules or alternative methods to help children maintain learning at home without causing unnecessary problems to people's safety. For example, in Owls class children can take home a book to read and complete their reading record at home. If they finish the book they can take another book home the following day. All books are only returned on Friday and placed into a quarantine box where they

would spend seventy-two hours away from everybody before going back into general circulation.

However much we would like to limit the number of items coming into school, we are fully aware that as we move towards the cooler months we would expect jumpers and coats to be coming in to keep the children warm. Our rule in school at the moment is if in doubt with what has been handled, wash your hands. The children have responded to this well.

Ask or email your class teacher if you are not sure about arrangements as these can be easily clarified. Each class will send out a curriculum letter detailing content coverage for the term as well as any home school arrangements for resources. Already, I have seen first-hand the challenges teaching the curriculum is going to involve when large numbers of children are off. Not only are we going to be expected to 'catch up' children who have fallen behind due to lockdown but plugging the repeated gaps that occur as children have to go off with COVID symptoms is going to be a huge challenge.

Please remember to use the booking form to sign up for breakfast and after school club provision (link below). It really is essential that you use the booking form as this gives us the numbers we need to cater for. I am trying to develop a booking system to cover the remainder of the half-term, to help us plan ahead.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IOM_8mowLU-yDq7UATSAsXHr1Qnzht5LnIAgTuyBd2hUQ05CS0kyR1k3S01PT0s3MIVCTkVBTzIwOS4u

Finally, a lot of parents have been contacting us with worries about symptoms somebody in their family is experiencing. I have been trying to clarify the position so as to give out the correct and latest advice. Under normal circumstances we would be encouraging children to come into school with colds and in particular coughs. However these are not normal times so I have attached two helpful sheets for you to refer to. The main message is to try to distinguish between a normal cold (runny nose, cough, sore throat) and COVID (continuous new cough, or three coughing episodes in one hour, high temp over 38°C and a loss of taste or smell). Please use the flowchart and advice sheet to help you decide how to proceed and let school know, of course, of any action you have taken.

As always, if you are unsure about anything, please ask. We are here to support and help. Get in touch with me and I will do my best to answer your queries.

Stay safe and well, and hopefully by working together we can stave off the virus from affecting us for as long as possible.

Best wishes,

Chris Edwards

Chris Edwards

Headteacher

Reedham Primary and Nursery School

Current Guidance for Parents on Coronavirus Related Absences

What to do if...	Actions needed:	Return to school when...
... my child has a high temperature and/or a persistent cough and/or loss of taste or smell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate • Get a test • Inform school immediately of test result 	... the test comes back negative.
... my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform school immediately of test result • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for at least 10 days 	<p>... 10 days have passed since positive test.</p> <p><i>Symptoms may last for several weeks, but the child is safe to return after 10 days.</i></p>
... somebody in my household has a high temperature and/or a persistent cough and/or loss of taste or smell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate • Household member must get a test • Inform school immediately of test result 	... the test comes back negative.
... somebody in my household tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform school immediately of test result • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
... NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a "close contact" of somebody with symptoms of coronavirus / a positive test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
... we have travelled and have to self-isolate due to quarantine measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
... we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Continue shielding until you are informed that restrictions are lifted or shielding is paused. 	... shielding restrictions have been lifted or paused.