



5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I was going to write to you yesterday but once I realised that there was going to be a government announcement, I felt it would be better to wait until after that.

As you will be aware, last night the government said that schools will now remain closed to all but children of critical workers and those children that are deemed to be vulnerable until at least February half term. All learning will now be remote.

The feedback that we received during the last lockdown was that having the work packs posted weekly was overwhelming and difficult to structure. We have therefore reviewed our procedures and will be posting work daily along with a video from the teacher.

If you have any queries, please email the class teacher via the school admin email address, putting the class teacher's name in the subject line.

As of Monday 11th January, hard copies of some of the resources for daily learning will be available weekly for collection. Please contact the school office to arrange a time slot to collect the resources if required, however please be aware that we are trying to minimise the number of visitors to the school site.

Teachers will deliver a weekly 30 minute live online tutorial session with each child, in a group of six. This small group size is to try and mitigate any potential safeguarding risks, such as inappropriate behaviour by a child or by someone else in the same household as the child. If there are more than six children it is not possible for the teacher to properly see and monitor each child at the same time, in particular whilst also trying to deliver the lesson. This weekly session is designed to support your child in their learning. As we progress through this period, we will review and continue to assess how this is all working.

Prior to starting online tutorials, we will ask each parent and child to agree and sign an agreement as to how this will operate.

Children will be expected to upload some work daily that will be marked by the teacher. The Department for Education (DfE) have provided the school with a small number of Chromebooks that we are able to loan to families that do not have a device to use to access the work set. Please contact the school office if you need to borrow a device during this period.



www.rokesly-jun.haringey.sch.uk

I know that some of you are concerned about home schooling and would welcome the opportunity for teachers to spend a significant part of the day delivering live lessons to the children. It is not possible to replicate the school day virtually. Therefore, we will continue to offer work set daily to all pupils along with a weekly session with small groups of children and their class teachers. We believe this is the best and safest solution at the moment for Rokesly Junior staff and pupils.

Reasons for us not being able to do this include:

- Our school community is diverse, and there isn't a perfect solution for everyone. We have many families who are sharing devices (and even tables/desks in some cases) between multiple children, some in secondary school, as well as using them themselves for work - so by having fixed lesson times online, we risk excluding many children who are unable to access these lessons at a set time each day.
- Many working parents have formed childcare bubbles so there are days when children will be at another location and again unable to access online lessons. By having pre-recorded video introductions, and links to Oak National Academy lessons, this ensures that all children can access learning at a time that suits their families' individual circumstances. As an aside, the Oak National Academy is an excellent resource developed for this very purpose – our teachers will link to these lessons which are in line with the national curriculum and our curriculum plans. These are delivered by excellent teachers.
- There are a significant proportion of our staff, whose personal circumstances are not conducive to delivering live lessons. Some staff members live in house shares, some have their own children at home and some live with relatives. Not all have a private space or desk to work on, and many are working from a table in a living room where others are present, who are also trying to work. It is therefore difficult to expect some staff members to deliver live online lessons from communal spaces, as this impacts their households and also poses safeguarding issues as staff members cannot control who may be able to see and hear their screens. I am sure you will all agree that staff members should not be conducting lessons from their bedrooms. By offering pre-recorded videos, staff members can ensure they are able to find a quiet time and place of their choosing which works for their household situation.
- Our teachers are working extremely hard in re-setting lesson plans, providing resources, marking and other responsibilities. We had set lesson plans for the term which are now quickly being adapted into a format that can be used for home learning, including sourcing the relevant parts of the Oak Academy lessons. This means that unfortunately there is limited time in the day to be able to plan and deliver online live lessons as well.

Later on this week you will receive a letter detailing the day and time of your child's group each week. These will be set at a time where the particular teacher can find a quiet space to work alone, to mitigate any safeguarding issues.



www.rokesly-jun.haringey.sch.uk

As this school closure was imposed with very little notice, leaving us little time to plan, I am aware of the fact that some of your children may not have extensive reading materials at home and some may need an exercise book to work in. We will have a range of books available for you to take from outside the school office between 10am and 2pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week (weather permitting). Please just buzz in through the gate, take some books and then leave the school site promptly.

I know that there are tricky times ahead for all of us and we appreciate your support in working in partnership with us and in recognising that this pandemic affects us all, teachers and parents alike, and that we are all facing some issues at this time.

Thank you for your ongoing support for us as a school and the community as a whole.

Yours faithfully,

Bola Soneye-Thomas
Headteacher