

Newsletter

Newsletter No 1 | 09 September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the 2020/2021 academic year. A special welcome to the families and staff just starting their journey at Rokesly Juniors. Even though there are some changes e.g. staggered timings etc. we are delighted that we are able to open the school all day for all children. I hope that you are all refreshed and ready for the year ahead, regardless of what it might bring.

Although most of the staff were at school preparing their classrooms during the last week of August, the term officially started for all staff on Tuesday 1st September with child protection training (annual CP training for staff is a mandatory requirement), followed by consultation on the risk assessment. On Wednesday 2nd September the teaching staff had training on English, maths, history, geography, art and design technology whilst the teaching assistants, office staff and school meals assistants had first aid training (most of their certificates expired during lockdown). On Thursday 3rd September we had training on our Code of Conduct and school policies (this is also part of the annual induction) followed by training on unconscious bias. On Friday 4th September we had training on Zones of Regulation as a system to support children with their emotional wellbeing and behaviour regulation, as we recognise that being back in the routine of full time school may take some children some time to adjust to.

There will be some catching up to do this academic year. Once the children have settled we shall begin the process of assessment so that any support given will be based on where the children actually are rather than where we think that they are.

I would like to thank those of you that were junior school parents last year for your support during what was a challenging time for you as parents and us as a staff team. Thank you also to the staff team who continually adapted to the times that we were in. I know that we shall continue to do this as the need arises.

A very special thank you to the Governing Body. Their support and challenge has been invaluable in being able to open to all children in the last two weeks of the summer term and in preparing for this academic year. There was a governing body meeting during August when the risk assessment was agreed. It is now available on the school website.

I look forward to working in partnership with you again this year, as this is the most effective way to support children throughout their primary education.

Yours faithfully,

Bola Soneye-Thomas
Headteacher

Term Dates 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

02/09/2020 – 18/12/2020

Half Term 2020

26/10/20 – 30/10/2020

Spring Term 2021

04/01/2020 – 01/04/2021

Half Term 2021

15/02/2021 – 19/02/2021

Summer Term 2021

19/04/2021 – 21/07/2021

Half Term 2021

31/05/2021 – 04/06/2021

Tad Days

Wednesday	02/09/2020
Thursday	03/09/2020
Friday	04/09/2020
Monday	02/11/2020
Monday	04/01/2021
Monday	07/06/2021

School Meals Costs

Autumn Term

1 st half	£85.75
2 nd half	£85.75
Total	£171.50

Spring Term

1 st half	£71.05
2 nd half	£71.05
Total	£142.10

Summer Term

1 st half	£71.05
2 nd half	£78.40
Total	£149.45



Summer works

Thank you to the premises staff (Jason, Kulvinder and Mauricio) who have had an extremely busy summer in terms of maintenance, upkeep of the school building and co-ordination of work carried out by external contractors. A number of improvements have been made to the school building including the installation of sound dampeners in the Round Hall to cut down on the constant echo and refurbishment of the school office to make communication between the office staff and visitors a better experience.

You may have seen the large blue sail that was installed in the playground to provide some shade during the summer months. Thank you to the PSA who funded the sail. The children will definitely benefit from it and it brightens up the playground.



Clashes due to Staggered Timings

A number of parents have highlighted clashes with the staggered pick up times. Grant and I have discussed this and it will be tricky for junior children to go to the Infants school to meet their siblings. We have both agreed that instead staff members at each school will be prepared to look after an individual child for a short time if they cannot be collected on time due to a clash. I apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause, but given the current situation this seems like the most practical solution for both schools.

Face Masks

I have been asked about the wearing of masks on site. At present, we do not require adults to wear a mask in the playground as the staggered start and end times and large open space mean that it should be easy for adults to keep 2m apart. However, please do wear a mask if you wish to do so.

Any adult visitors inside the school itself will be required to wear a mask. This is in line with current government guidelines and our risk assessment.

I would like to reiterate that ensuring effective social distancing will be much easier if only one adult comes on site, and that as far as possible, you stick to the drop off and pick up times and leave the site promptly afterwards.

I am aware that some schools in the area have different policies, but that is largely due to larger intakes, fewer access points and smaller waiting areas. We are fortunate at Rokesly to have a very large playground.

Meet the teacher Meetings

There will be an opportunity to meet the teachers in your child's year group via Zoom next week. The dates for the meetings are:

- Year 3 Wednesday 16th September 6.00pm – 6.30pm
- Year 4 Wednesday 16th September 6.30pm – 7.00 pm
- Year 5 Thursday 17th September 6.00pm – 6.30pm
- Year 6 Thursday 17th September 6.30pm – 7.00pm

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