

'We Care, We Trust, We Believe, We Share, We Enjoy, We Achieve!'

'We Are Limitless. We Are Kind.'

'We Are 'Rivi!'



14.09.2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Covid-19 pandemic has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone and I am so proud of how we are working together as we manage this transition back to school.

The staggered starts and ends to the day allow us to ensure safer transitions. Throughout the school day we have introduced staggered break times to allow us to support our children returning safely, both physically and emotionally, in their year group bubbles whilst maximising learning time.

There is no doubt that our children's learning has been affected by this pandemic and that this disruption – unfortunately - is clearly not over. Now more than ever, as a school we need to be focusing on our children's wellbeing and mental health as they adjust to the new normal, facing different routines and expectations, socialising safely, re-establishing friendships and managing any anxieties they may have.

There is not a 'one-size fits all' approach, children and families have had very different experiences during the lockdown period so please contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your child's return to school and would like to speak to your child's class teacher.

As the government have now announced new restrictions on social gathering of groups of more than 6 people, it is important to ensure that we remain compliant with national government guidelines. Please can I therefore ask that you continue to maintain an appropriate social distance whilst waiting to drop-off and pick-up your children.

The challenges we are facing as a school and a community are nationwide challenges and I thank you in advance for your patience, understanding and flexibility as we manage this challenging period of transition.

Attached to this newsletter is the latest guidance from the LA on what actions we are to take with different scenarios concerning COVID-19. Unfortunately, confirmed positive cases are probably a reality in the upcoming months. This does not mean a certain closure of a bubble or the whole school – this decision will be taken by the local authority and Public Health England on the information they have around the situation.

Should any child present unwell in school with any of the three symptoms of a high temperature, repetitive cough or loss of taste and smell we are required to send them and their siblings home immediately.

I kindly ask Parents to remember that if we have to close a bubble in school, it's because we have to due to directives from PHE. I would recommend, if I may, that you devise a plan at home for the possible closure of your child's bubble, then when it happens, we can all swiftly follow this plan without raising our anxiety levels too high. I appreciate the concern this situation presents – both myself and my husband work full-time and would find the same actions at our children's schools extremely disruptive and upsetting. May I take this opportunity in advance to thank you all whole-heartedly for all your support.

Kind regards,

Sarah Annette

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Stars of the - This week's Rivington Remarkables are: **Isabelle (Y1), Jack (Y2), Isobel (Y3), Lewis (Y4), Archie (Y5) and Alex (Y6)**. What a fantastic start to the year – we could not be more proud!



journey as a new family.

Wonderful News – Mrs. Sharp has given us her permission to pass on the wonderful news that on Friday 11th September she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Mum and baby are doing very well and are at home. We wish Mrs. Sharp, her husband and their wonderful daughter all our love and blessings as they begin their

School Lunches - To reduce children numbers in the hall, children are having packed lunches in their classrooms with the exception of children from EYFS and Y1/2 who eat in the hall. To enhance our service Lancashire Catering are now providing a hot sandwich choice within the packed lunch menu. This will be effective from today Monday 14th September. Please contact the school office for further information.

Celebration Worship – As we are unable to invite parents into school for Celebration Worship on Friday mornings, we have planned other ways to celebrate the children's achievements. We will be holding a Zoom Worship in school for the children so the classes can listen to and celebrate each other. We are also able to invite Parents to join us on Zoom. Achievement Stickers, Certificates and Reading Awards will be handed out in class and teachers will Tweet a photograph of all the children who have received an award. For achievements 'out of school', we are asking parents to send in a photograph of their children holding their award and brief information about the award. We will share these pictures with the children in school on Friday mornings and post them on newsletter each week. Please ensure photographs are sent via email to bursar@rivington.lancs.sch.uk no later than 12pm each Wednesday.

Open Day – At this time of year we usually invite prospective parents into school to view school for admissions for the next academic year. Unfortunately, we are not able to run the open days as we normally would but we obviously still want to give prospective parents as much information about our school as we possibly can. During the next couple of weeks, we will be producing a couple of promotional films, one of the whole school and one for EYFS. We will incorporate these onto our website once they are complete at

Amazon Gift List – A huge, huge thank you to all of you who have bought items from our Amazon gift list. With our usual avenues of fund-raising closed, your generous and much-appreciated gifts have gone a long-way to ensure we can provide the rich and enjoyable curriculum and provision our children deserve. Altogether, over £600 worth of equipment has been gifted by you to school. I know that the staff and children are immensely grateful and during these difficult times, your generosity has been both humbling and a blessing to us all. Many, many heart-felt thanks.

Know About Trolling and Online Abuse - Last week, National Online Safety published a free online safety guide to help parents and carers understand what they need to know about trolling and online abuse, a form of cyber aggression that involves the sending of malicious, abusive or derogatory messages by one user (a 'troll') to another user online. Please see the guide for parents attached.

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Macmillan Coffee Morning - This year we are unable to host our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning due to the current Government restrictions on visitors in school. However, we feel this is an important cause and we would like to continue to support the charity. Therefore, instead we will have a 'Wear Green Day' on Friday 25th

September 2020 for the children to wear a green head band, socks or a whole green outfit in return for a £1.00 donation! In these difficult times charities still need our support so we hope you will feel able to help. **(PLEASE DO NOT GO TO ANY EXPENSE TO PURCHASE A GREEN ITEM).**

Behaviour Policy - We have written an addendum to our Behaviour Policy detailing expectations linked to our additional health and safety routines. This has also been placed on our COVID Home School Agreement. This was sent out to all parents this week and can be found on our website in both the policies and Home Learning pages. Please read this with your child to ensure they understand what is expected of everyone and if you have any questions please contact us.

School Photo's – Change to date: Individual school photographs will now be taken on Wednesday 30th September. Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances we are unable to include babies and pre-school siblings in the photographs.

Lunch Menu – As the children in Y3-6 are eating their lunches in their classroom's the kitchen are unable to serve hot meals. Each day, school dinner children will now have the choice of a hot or cold sandwich. These will be served to the children in picnic bags in their classes. EYFS and Y1/2 children will eat their lunches in the dinner hall.

Nut Allergy - Please note we do have children in school with a severe nut allergy. Regarding healthy eating, and the reduction of stickiness and ants in school, please ensure that water bottles contain only water, and have a click shut lid!

Coats – Please could all children bring a coat with a hood into school for break times as the weather is now becoming a little more unpredictable.

Data Collection Sheets - Data collection forms will be sent out this week. Please return these to school as soon as possible to ensure all our records are up to date, especially any new or existing medical conditions. If your child requires an inhaler or any other medication in school, please ensure it is clearly labelled and in date. Please also include an email address and at least 2 people who should be contacted in the case of emergency. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parking – The road outside school is obviously very busy at the start and end of the day. Please can parents/ carers show patience and consideration towards each other and the general public. In the interest of the safety of the children and all pedestrians, in no circumstances should anyone park on the zig zag lines or the pavement. Please show consideration for local residents when dropping off and picking up children. Thank you to those parents who show this consideration and park a short distance away and walk to school from there. This also ensures the safety of all our children which is obviously the primary concern for everyone. Thank you.

School Admissions - Primary and Secondary applications can be made on line and you should clearly state 3 preferences for your child. If you are applying to a church school, there is a supplementary form which needs to be completed.

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SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - The closing date for Secondary School Admissions is 31st October 2020

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - The closing date for Primary School Admissions is 15th January 2021. For information about our admissions criteria please visit the school website.

High School Open Days – Parkland's - Thursday 17th September - VIRTUAL Open Evening 5.15pm till 8.15pm.

Albany Academy – To be confirmed. Southlands – To be confirmed.

Rivington and Blackrod – to be confirmed.

Gardening Club- Green fingers –If you think you can commit to keeping our gardens tidy once or twice a week (this can be done safely following the Government Guidance) please let us know.

Thank you Useful Information - Please see below a link from our school nursing team to a resource developed by the Anna Freud Centre which you may find useful for your children who may be experiencing anxiety.

<https://www.annafreud.org/media/11459/7waysanxiety.pdf>

Many thanks for your continued support,

The Rivington Team