

Rivington Foundation Primary School

Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 7SE

Tel: (01204) 696951 Headteacher: Mrs S E Annette BA (QTS)



Monday 11th January 2020.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year and we hope you had a lovely Christmas even if it was a little different. It seems like we have been back in school much longer than one week and so much has happened. As we look ahead to 2021 it is with great uncertainty. It had been great to all the children return on Monday only for us to be 'pulled apart' again. We have entered another period of lockdown but I am confident the strength and support of our school community will see us through. I

would like to say thank you to our parents who have been extremely patient and supportive since we received news of the lock down. The staff have worked extremely hard this week and I am thankful for our hardworking team here at Rivington. They have embraced the changes at very short notice and worked hard to implement remote learning, whilst supporting our families and children both in and out of school. I am very proud of what we have achieved in a short period of time.

Thank you for your kind words of support and encouragement at this time, which have meant a great deal to all of us. We recognise the challenges and frustrations many of our families are facing and will endeavour to support you as much as we can. We value the feedback we have been given regarding remote learning as we want to work together to ensure we iron out any problems you may be experiencing and we can only do that if you let us know. We had a few teething problems and there will undoubtedly be others. We are working hard to address them and I am sure things will get easier from day to day. We have a few weeks ahead of us working this way, it has only been a few days and I would urge parents not to panic or feel under any unnecessary pressure. The children are also coming to terms with this change and it will take some time to adjust.

We will do our best to stay connected with our children and families via Zoom meetings, newsletters, and Seesaw. However, please don't feel isolated and if you need any help or support please let us know. We will be sending messages regularly to monitor how things are and please do respond.

We will continue to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Mrs. Annette, staff and governors

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Reporting Absences of Key Worker Children: If your child is currently attending school and is absent due to sickness or for any other reason please inform school **as soon as possible**. It is important that when leaving a message that all parents/carers inform us of the reason for the absence and symptoms. If your child is taken poorly with COVID symptoms (even if they are not due into school on that particular day) please contact us and let us know. It is also really important that if anyone in your household is awaiting a test result you do not send your child into school. We are very appreciative to all our families for taking these necessary precautions and continuing to keep our children, staff and our families safe and well. If you need to make amendments to your child's allocated days, due to change in shift patterns etc, please contact the school office at your earliest opportunity. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Pupil Premium – Are you entitled? If you find that your circumstances have changed recently due to the COVID pandemic you may be entitled to Pupil Premium. If you are, then you could get help towards payments for trips and Free School Meals for your child. It's easy to do. All you need to do is call the South Area Education Office on 01772 532109 or click on the link

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-schoolmeals/?page=3>

It must be the person claiming the benefit that rings. You will need to provide your name, date of birth and National Insurance Number. They will confirm whether you are entitled over the telephone. Alternatively complete the form and hand into the school office. Pupil Premium is completely confidential and other pupils and families will not know if you gain access to the funding.

Benefit Based Free School Meals: Whilst we are on lockdown, the Edenred Voucher Scheme will be available again to all families who are in receipt of benefit based Free School Meals. We will be in touch once the new guidance has been received.



Weekly Children's Joke: We thought it might lift our spirits if we enjoyed a weekly joke in our newsletter. If your child has a funny joke to tell please email Mrs Townsend in the school office by Thursday at 12pm – bursar@rivington.lancs.sch.uk Please include the name and age of your child.

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Warm Clothing: If your child is attending school please ensure they are wearing enough layers of clothing to keep themselves warm as the windows are open to ensure classrooms are well ventilated. Please could you also ensure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf to keep warm at playtimes and suitable outdoor footwear for the snowy weather. Thank you.



Photographs: If your child completes work at home which they are proud of and would like to share, please forward a photograph to head We will initially share these via our newsletter each week and may share them via Twitter if we receive lots. Thank you.

Mobile Data Allowances: The Department for Education has introduced a pilot offer to increase mobile data allowances for children and young people. This scheme is open to children and young people who don't have access to a fixed broadband connection, cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources or social care services, have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network, are facing disruption to their face-to-face education or have been advised not to attend school. The participating providers are **EE, Sky Mobile, Smartly, Tesco Mobile, Three & Virgin Mobile**. If you think you meet the above criteria and would like school to request extra mobile data, we will need to collect the following information: the account holder's name, their mobile number (a number beginning with '07'), their mobile network, whether they pay monthly or pay as they go, account holders with monthly contracts need to be over the age of 18. Please follow [this link](#) which explains the DfE privacy policy to the account holder. For more information please refer to the email that was sent out today and if you are interested please return the form to school **by 9am on Tuesday 12th January**.

National Online Safety: Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. National Online Safety have created a guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote education experience.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential issues such as creating a safe learning environment, adhering to school policies and making sure the appropriate systems and communication channels are in place so that educators, parents and carers get the most out of their remote education experience.

Have a safe week and we look forward to being together again very soon.

Missing you all! *Mrs. Annette*