

26.02.2021 Dear Parents/Carers,

Rivington has always had an incredibly strong partnership between home and school. That has never been more important than over the last period of lockdown. You have supported us and our delivery of teaching and we appreciate the challenge that it will have been for households juggling work and home-schooling. Parents, children and staff have pulled together at a really tough time and we are so proud of everybody at Rivington.

Following government guidance on the Monday 22nd February 2021, we will open school for all pupils from Monday 8th March 2021. Be assured that pupil, parent and staff safety is STILL the number one priority when we return to school - nothing is more important, nothing will come above that and we've tried our very, very best to put every measure in place to achieve this.

At the time of writing this, the atmosphere is positive, staff and children alike are excited about our imminent return to school. Whilst optimistic about this, we must advise caution against complacency. Here at school we are refreshing our risk assessments, safety protocols and signage. We must remember that we have not had all of our children and staff in school together since Monday 4th January. Together, we must proceed with caution and remember that we are by no means at the finish line.

The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. These children are not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally. These children will have received a medical shielding letter.

We will provide remote education to pupils who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus (COVID-19), in the circumstances provided for in the [Remote Education Temporary Continuity Direction](#).

Classes/Bubbles:

From Monday 8th March, children will return to their class bubbles. The children will stay in their class bubble and we will continue to reduce the contact that children have with other classes as much as possible; this includes staggered break and lunchtimes. Additional cleaning measures continue in all areas of school in order to reduce the risk of infection.

Dropping Off and Collecting Children from school:

Staggered Starts and Ends with drop-off points:

	Nursery (EYFS)	Reception (EYFS)	Y1/2	Y3/4	Y5/6
Start time	9:00am	9:00am.	9:00am	8:50am	8:50am
Location for drop-off	Carpark gate- rear of the building.	Carpark gate- rear of the building.	Small, black gate next to the TreeHouse	Small, black gate next to the TreeHouse	Carpark gate- rear of the building.
End time	3:15pm*	3:15pm*	3:15pm*	3:05pm	3:05pm
Location for pick-up	<u>Use one-way system – entering Church Hall gate and exiting small, black TreeHouse gate</u>	<u>Use one-way system – entering Church Hall gate and exiting small, black TreeHouse gate</u>	<u>Use one-way system – entering Church Hall gate and exiting small, black TreeHouse gate</u>	<u>Use one-way system – entering Church Hall gate and exiting small, black TreeHouse gate</u>	<u>Use one-way system – entering Church Hall gate and exiting small, black TreeHouse gate</u>

*EYFS and Y1/2 Siblings can be picked up at 3:05pm with KS2

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- Avoid the use of public transport and walk, drive or cycle to school.
- As we are trying to reduce the number of people on school premises unless absolutely necessary – please drop off and collect your child at the time given to help us ensure our arrangements run as smoothly as possible for everyone.
- Only one parent/carer to drop off and collect children.
- Ensure you distance from others at all times when coming to and from school – please do not walk down the driveway together.
- If there appear to be many families around school at your drop off and collection time, please allow time for this to reduce until you approach school.
- Do not enter school premises when dropping off your child- staff will be at the gates to guide your child/ children into school.
- Collect your child at the end of the school day using the one-way system. Staff will be there to direct and assist you.
- We appreciate parents or grandparents with buggies or those who may be infirm may not be able to use the steps next to the TreeHouse and therefore will be able to exit using the same gate next to the Church Hall to exit. In this instance, please use your own judgement keeping your distance when returning up the drive. If this system is still difficult for you due to the reasons listed above, please contact school to make more suitable arrangements.
- Children **are not** to play in the school grounds as they leave the site.
- **School politely requests that parents in wear face masks during this process unless they are exempt from doing so.**
- Teaching Staff **will not** be able to converse with Parents and Carers during this time – please contact the school office to make an appointment.
- We kindly ask that Parents do not linger in or around the school grounds during pick-up and swiftly return to their vehicle once they have collected their child/ren.
- **We request that Parents arrive promptly at their pick-up time and not before or significantly after.**
- **We understand that unexpected things can happen to cause a late pick up. In these circumstances, if able, please contact the school office as soon as possible.**
- **Children whose parents are late may need to wait for their child to be released – allowing other year groups to exit first so that the process is not disrupted. After a 10min period, children whose parents have not yet arrived will be placed in late-stay and may incur a charge for use of the facility. We thank you in advance for understanding this action.**

Thank you for following these instructions as School will only be able to remain open to all pupils as long as there are enough healthy and Covid-free staff to teach our children.

Testing:

Staff at Rivington will continue to test with LFDs twice a week at home, as per existing guidance on testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries.

Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs. Public Health England have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Primary age pupils may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab. We will review this approach in the light of any emerging evidence.

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Face Coverings:

Children will not be required to wear face coverings whilst attending school. **Staff and visitors will be requested to wear a mask or visor in all areas.** Children who are aged 5 or above are requested to wear a face covering if they are accessing and leaving school via public transport. This will be under constant review.

Routines:

We are once again able to return to some of our normal routines although some things will be different.

We will resume the use of reading books.

- Reception children will be issued with a book/books on a Monday and the staff will listen to them read. The children will also complete guided reading during the week. Books should be returned on a Friday. Books will be kept in isolation over the weekend to decontaminate and new books issued on a Monday.
- Children in years 1 and 2 will be issued with a book/books on a Monday. These will be changed on Friday. The children will have a class reading book that they will be able to change during the week as required – the class teachers will listen to the children read with this. The children will also take part in a guided read in school. When the children come to return the books they will place the book in a box within their classroom. The boxes will be left untouched all week and books returned to the central store on a Monday after the 48-hour weekend decontamination window.
- Children in years 3,4,5 and 6 children will be able to change their books as often as they wish. They will take part in reading activities in class throughout the week. When accessing the central book store in school they will wash their hands before. When the children come to return the books they will place the book in a box within their classroom. The boxes will be left untouched all week and books returned to the central store on a Monday after the 48-hour weekend decontamination window.

Equipment:

Children are asked to bring in their school book bag with only their reading book and reading record.

Please do not allow your child to bring in any personal belongings or a PE kit. On the day your child's class has PE (Tuesday and Thursday) they may wear trainers and jogging bottoms/leggings on that day. In order to reduce risk, your child's clothes should ideally be washed daily and they should shower when they return from school. This may mean that full school uniform is not always possible and we completely understand that.

Educational Visits:

We will not be taking children on any day trips or residential. The guidance on day trips and residential is being reviewed in April.

Until further notice, we will be unable to administer medication in school with the exception of emergency medications and inhalers. If your child requires medication, we ask that a parent come to school office to administer it.

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Breakfast Club and Late Stay:

Breakfast Club and Late Stay will be open as normal. Please use the normal systems to book your child in. Breakfast Club and Late Stay children should be dropped off and picked up from the hall door using the one-way system.

If your child becomes unwell:

If your child or a member of your household becomes unwell with a continuous cough or temperature above 38, they **must** be tested for COVID 19 and should isolate at home whilst waiting for the test results. If your child becomes unwell in school, we will call you to collect them as we normally do. In order to reduce the risk of spreading any illness, your child will wait with a member of staff in the TreeHouse near to the small, black gate entrance. The member of staff waiting with the child will wear PPE including a mask, gloves and apron before going home to follow washing procedures.

If your child tests negative, they may return to school when their symptoms have gone. Please email the school office at bursar@rivington.lancs.sch.uk with your results.

If your child tests positive, you must let school know as soon as possible as the other children and staff in their class must isolate for 10 days.

If your child is awaiting test results for any reason (medical or research), we kindly ask that they not attend school. If a child in your child's class is sent home with symptoms of COVID19, we will inform you whilst maintaining the confidentiality of the child. If a child in your child's class is tested positive, we will inform you as soon as possible and provide advice on isolating.

School Lunches:

On school lunches, a hot sandwich offer will still be available alongside a cold sandwich. Children will be able to choose their menu option on a daily basis. Children will eat their lunches in their classrooms with the exception of Reception, Nursery and Y1/2 who will eat their lunch in the Church Hall.

ALL children from **Reception Class, Y1 and Y2** are entitled to FREE SCHOOL MEALS under the universal meal scheme. Parents who wish to purchase a school lunch please can you make your payment via ParentPay. We request all payments are made in advance. Thank you.

Break-time Snacks:

Children are asked to bring a healthy snack into school. **Please could you also ensure that your child does not bring any food into school that CONTAINS NUTS as we do have a child with a nut allergy in school. Thank you for your co-operation.**

We anticipate that a change in routine from being at home may result in children being hungry mid-morning therefore this snack will be important.

Please can children bring a water bottle, with their name on, into school each day. This will go home to be washed and refilled on a daily basis.

Children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 will be beneficiaries of the Infant Fruit scheme. Please provide a healthy snack in the first two weeks to combat any hunger.

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Uniform:

- Children *should* wear school uniform.
- **For this academic year, we are allowing children to wear plain grey skirts and pinafores to combat supply issues.**
- **Children are able to wear purple or black (Y6 ONLY) knitted jumpers and cardigans without the school logo – these are available at a number of supermarkets and stores as detailed previously.**
- Uniforms do not need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. We do however recommend that they are cleaned daily/regularly and removed on arrival at home.
- If more regular cleaning means that uniform is not ready for school then we understand this – please do not buy extra.
- **On PE days- TUESDAY AND THURSDAY- children should arrive in school in their PE kit (outdoor to support PE in the school grounds).**
- Your child should only bring in their lunch boxes, coat/hats, water bottle, healthy snacks in a plastic bag or small school bag.

Attendance:

Government guidance states that school attendance will become mandatory again from 8th March and we will return to our usual school policies and procedures on this. If your child is instructed to self-isolate their attendance will not be affected and work will be set on SeeSaw including referral to home-learning menu activities.

In the event of a whole-bubble closure, we will inform you through the same methods that we have been using thus far - we will inform you swiftly, with as much notice as possible through the medium of text, email and then Seesaw/Twitter. Some lessons will be Zoomed out and a timetable will be sent out to you.

Supporting your child in school:

We know that this has been a difficult time for all children and their families. Our first aim is to support them in coming back to school, adjusting to the routines and joy of being back in school, safely. We will return to a tailored, engaging curriculum that will continue to support children in making progress and bridging gaps. Our first week back will see a focus on well-being and enjoyment.

Once again, thank you for your patience and unwavering support of the school. We are so excited to welcome all of the children back to Rivington again in March.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact a member of Senior Leadership Team.

Best wishes,

The SLT Team

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