



21st July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

School full opening September 3rd

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for all your support and care during the initial COVID-19 period. I do not underestimate the challenges that parents have faced during these past few months. I appreciate that the home learning experience will have been very different for many families depending on your individual circumstances. The engagement many of you have had with our school during this time will make it easier for teachers and staff teams to help all children to catch up and keep up with their learning when school starts again next term.

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued schools with advice about how we can open in September with minimal risk to pupils and staff, now that the prevalence of COVID-19 has decreased within the community. Current restrictions on class sizes will be lifted, but we will keep children in class 'bubbles' to minimise the number of daily contacts with others. Protective measures, such as regular cleaning and handwashing, will continue, as will social distancing where possible.

I would like to reassure our families that we are putting rigorous procedures in place to minimise the likelihood of viral transmission and to respond to any positive COVID-19 cases. Testing will be widely available, and we will alert parents immediately should any concerns arise. If your child has any of the COVID-19 symptoms it is vital that they do not attend school and we will ask parents to collect their children immediately if they become symptomatic during the school day. It is also important that your child is tested as soon as symptoms occur. If the test returns as negative your child can return to school at this time. If your child tests positive, your household will be asked to self-isolate in line with NHS guidance. Appropriate actions will be taken in the case of any outbreak and remote education will be made available to any pupils who might have to self-isolate.

Start and end of day routines

Having reflected upon our updated risk assessment coupled with government guidance, we will need to temporarily stagger the start and finish times for each year group (please see below) in order to ensure cross-bubble contamination is kept to an absolute minimum and to reduce any risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level. Please support the school by ensuring these times are





strictly adhered to in order to avoid any unnecessary overlapping between different year group bubbles. Both 'Wakey, Wakey' and 'Fun Club' will run from the first day of term to support our working families.

Entry for all classes will be through our car park. This will have a clear entrance and exit avenue marked by cones. Children will be left at the gate which opens onto the playground where I will be waiting to welcome them. They will need to stand beside the coloured marker cones from where their teacher will escort them into the building. Key Stage 2 parents wishing their child(ren) to walk home from school without an adult must ensure they write to the school giving their permission. Names of these children will then be on a list at the car park gate at the end of the day to ensure safeguarding measures are in place.

Class(es)	Start Time	Finish Time
Sunshine Nursery	8:45 a.m.	11:45 a.m.
Green & Blue Class (Y5 and 6)	8:45 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Yellow & Purple (Y3 and 4)	8:55 a.m.	3:10 p.m.
Red & Orange (Y1 and 2)	9:05 a.m.	3:20 p.m.
Rainbow Class (Reception)	9:10 a.m.	3:00 p.m.

School Lunches

Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Y1 and 2) children are entitled to a free school dinner which should be booked in the usual way. Free School Meals for KS2 children will also continue in the usual way. Children who wish to bring a packed lunch to school will continue to do so in the same way they always have.

Uniform

Children will need to return to school in full uniform from next term. Details of our uniform dress code can be found on our school website www.rochford.essex.sch.uk





Book Bags etc.

Please try and keep the items brought to school by your child to a bare minimum. We will provide each child with a named pencil case including all their daily essentials which will only be used by them. Any shared resources will be cleaned regularly to avoid any potential cross-contamination.

Attendance from September

We have been reassured by the DfE and Essex that the risk of children becoming severely ill from COVID-19 is very low and it has been shown that there can be negative, and sometimes lasting, health and educational impacts for pupils who are out of school for long periods of time. It is with this in mind that the government's guidance states that pupils will be expected to attend their school as normal at the start of the Autumn Term 2020. From September it will therefore be compulsory for you to send your children to school.

NHS Test and Trace process

We have been asked to remind parents of the government's expectation that all schools and families engage in the test and trace process. It is hoped that families are willing to:

- book a test if your child displays symptoms. Children must not come to school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit;
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus COVID-19 or if asked by NHS Test & Trace;
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.

Anyone who displays symptoms of COVID-19 can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#) or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Please inform the school immediately of the results of a test.





Catch-Up Funding

You may have heard that the government will be providing funding so that schools can provide additional tuition and other support to pupils so that any who have fallen behind can be supported to catch up. At the time of writing, detailed guidance has not been released about this. As soon as it has, we will consider the most effective way forward to ensure it benefits all pupils.

Thank you once again for everything you are doing to help prepare your children to make a strong and safe start. We hope you and your children feel confident about returning in September and promise you we will do all we can to ensure our children are happy, safe and fully equipped to meet the challenges of the term ahead. As always, our main concern will be the physical and mental wellbeing of the children and we will continue to review the proposed practices to ensure that they will be the best fit for the children whilst retaining the highest level of protection that we can offer.

Best Wishes,

Mr. S. Owen

Headteacher

