



26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

School full opening on Monday 8th March

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again, on behalf of the staff and children, for the role you have played in supporting the education effort at home. I am very aware that the longevity of this pandemic, the poor weather and the increased expectation set by the government on home learning has made the current situation even harder for many families. The amount of support you have been able to provide your child whether it be large or small would have made a significant impact.

The Department for Education (DfE) has now shared the welcome news that we are able to re-open our doors to all children from 8th March. As before, 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 wherever possible.

I would like to reassure our families that we have 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 continue to temporarily stagger the finish times for EYFS and KS1 (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. We have, however, brought the start of the day back to 8:45am to make things a little easier for all families bringing children to school at the start of the day.





Both 'Wakey, Wakey' and 'Fun Club' will run from the first day of term to support our working families. Timings are 7:45am to 8:45am for Wakey, Wakey and 3:30pm-4:15pm for Fun Club.

Entry for all classes will continue to 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.	3:20 p.m.
Yellow & Purple (Y3 and 4)	8:45 a.m.	3:20 p.m.
Red & Orange (Y1 and 2)	8:45 a.m.	3:10 p.m.
Rainbow Class (Reception)	8:45 a.m.	3:10 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. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school every day. We will re-fill them in school if needed.

Uniform

Children will need to return to school in full uniform. 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 March 8th

We have been reassured by the DfE and Essex that the risk of children becoming severely ill from COVID-19 remains 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. From the 8th of March it will therefore be compulsory for you to send your children to school. Should you or your child have any concerns about returning, please do not hesitate to contact our Inclusion Team staff who are available to offer support.

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.





Rochford Primary & Nursery School (Academy)



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 a few weeks 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 weeks and months 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 and education that we can offer.

Best Wishes,

Mr. S. Owen

Headteacher



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