



5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents

We are delighted to be able to reopen the school doors to all children from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and we would like to thank you for all your support over what has been a very challenging start to the Spring Term and are especially grateful to all those parents and carers who have supported their children when learning from home and to the staff working with children in school.

Some information below is the same as issued in December, however, it's useful to have a comprehensive look at all aspects.

### What to Bring

- We are offering school meals, but if your child doesn't have school means, please bring in a cold, packed lunch.
- A **water bottle** that children will bring filled each morning and take home each night.
- A bookbag
- A spare PE kit to be left in school in the event that your child gets wet or muddy.
- Waterproofs on PE days with James from Little Soccer Stars.

### What **not** to Bring

- Food items that require cutlery (unless they are disposable).
- Food items that require heating up.
- Children's own stationery – pens, cases, etc. (*unless you plan for them to remain in school and only be used by your child*).

### Staggered Start and End Times and Clubs (Not Applicable to Nursery Class)

These have been organised so that the amount of overall teaching time is not reduced. I know that this does provide some of you with separate times to drop and collect siblings, but it is a vital part of reducing congestion outside school at drop-off and pick-up times.

- Bubble 1 – Nursery and Reception Class
- Bubble 2 – Years 1 and 2
- Bubble 3 – Years 3 and 6
- Bubble 4 – Years 4 and 5

| Start | Group           | Pick-up and Drop-off | End  |
|-------|-----------------|----------------------|------|
| 9:15  | Year 1          | Side entrance        | 3:45 |
|       | Year 4          | Main entrance        |      |
| 9:20  | Year 3          | Main entrance        | 3:50 |
|       | Year 2          | Side entrance        |      |
| 9:25  | Year 5          | Side entrance        | 3:55 |
|       | Year 6          | Main entrance        |      |
| 9:30  | Reception Class | Main entrance        | 4:00 |



### **School Street**

Branch Place is a public road with residential, business and school premises. In order that we remain respectful of our community please:

- Avoid driving to school and if you must, **turn off your engines immediately** when parked, or better still, park on Whitmore Road. Stay for as short a time as possible.
- Children queuing to enter the side gate, must line up by the school wall when it's their time to come in and against the opposite brick wall when waiting for a class to go.
- Children queuing to enter from the main entrance must line up against the school wall toward the canal, and along the wall opposite Hutley Wharf when waiting for a class to enter.
- At all times, children outside of bubbles and adults must keep a 2-meter distance.
- Children will be expected to not disturb the residents while waiting and remain in an orderly queue.

### **How will we stagger breaks?**

We have reworked the timetable so that the main playground is set out into five zones and that playtimes are staggered so that fewer children are out at play at any given time. Children use these zones within their bubbles for the whole day and this changes each day so that they experience the different zones throughout the week.

### **How will we maintain good hygiene practice throughout the day?**

As well as a thorough evening clean, we have dedicated staff whose role is to maintain a cycle of cleaning outdoor equipment after use and the washroom facilities.

Children will have their hands sanitised upon entry into school. Throughout the day, they will be encouraged to wash their hands for 20 seconds and, if they have been outside, they will wash their hands or have them sanitised before returning to class or eating.

### **When is my child eligible to return to school having travelled from overseas?**

Government guidance changes regularly, so please adhere to the very latest information.

### **What we expect from families**

We know that these are unique circumstances and we feel confident that we have put systems in place to ensure the safety of our staff and children at Rosemary Works School. We expect families to:

- **Follow our guidance** and ensure children do NOT come to school unwell;
- **Follow government guidance** to minimise risking themselves and our community by adhering to the rules. **At this point, children cannot have playdates, sleepovers or be collected by another family** (unless they are in your support bubble).
- **Be patient** – as said, this is a new way of working and there may be teething problems or a need to change some procedures to adapt.
- **Collect your child** if they are unwell or cannot follow the new school rules.
- **Wear a face covering** when picking up and dropping off your children, and please inform carers of this too.



- **Keep a two-meter distance between you and other adults** at these times too.
- **Change your children's clothing daily for school if possible** – this may help decrease the virus spreading.
- **Items brought in from home** - If you wish to bring in cakes to celebrate a birthday, please bring in only shop-bought cakes 48 hours before you intend for your child to share them out. Please also request permission from your child's class teacher. This goes for any items your child wishes to bring in from home.

### **General Priorities**

There has been much written about 'lost learning' and 'catch up' including click bait headlines and a sense of catastrophe in the press. I think this is very dangerous and we all need to take a pragmatic approach. I am aware that many of our children (and parents) have been working exceptionally hard at home and have completed lots of work. Constant talk of 'catch up' and 'extra learning' will only put more unnecessary pressure on our children and parents. In the first few weeks that our children all return to school, we will allow them to settle back in, build relationships and re-establish friendships. We will undertake assessments of their learning and make plans about how we can best meet their needs based on this information. This is what teachers have always done and will continue to do. Our focus will be on high-quality classroom teaching because that is what will have the greatest impact. All I ask of you as parents is that you continue to support the work of the school and to play your part supporting and reinforcing the work of your children's teachers. Many of you have done an amazing job home schooling your children and I look forward to continued partnership with you all in the coming months and years.

### **Follow Guidance**

Finally, I want to stress the importance of sticking to the guidance in and around school. Social distancing and face coverings are in place for a reason and it is important that we all take responsibility for this. All the measures that we have put into place will make the school as safe as possible for pupils, staff and families. Following the guidance and respecting the measures that we have put in place is the only way that we will avoid a repeat of what has happened and a further closure of schools and lockdown.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Dell'.

Rob Dell (Head Teacher)