

15th January 2021

Dear Parents,

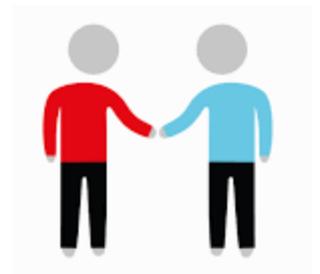
Another week has very quickly flown by and I hope that this letter finds you all well.

This letter is more of an overall update covering lots of things as we reach the end of our second week back at school. Feedback from parents has been positive about the longer, weekly updates so please continue to let us know if there is any additional information you would like to know.

Yesterday, we wrote and spoke to some parents whose children are currently accessing a school place and asked you to consider whether you could reduce your days in school. Thank you for all that you did in trying to keep your children at home more – even one day a week has really supported so thank you for playing your part.

Looking after ourselves and each other

Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything that you are doing to support your child at home when accessing the remote learning. The engagement has been high across the school and as each day goes by, we iron out more technical and other glitches and I know that the teachers have been supporting you in accessing learning at home.



Parents, you are all doing an amazing job with teaching your children at home. This really is no mean feat as we know that many of you are juggling the running of a busy household or working from home yourselves. Thank you for your efforts and we are grateful for all that you are doing.

At this time, it is more important than ever to be kind to yourself. If you can't complete all of the home learning each day, please do not worry. Please do what is manageable and sustainable and fits in with the busy demands of your homelife. If your child is struggling, then please contact your child's teacher but there is no need for you to worry or panic. Some children will love working from home and will engage well and feel motivated but we know that some children will take a little longer to adapt and may get upset or anxious. If this happens, that is okay. Just pause for some time and do something completely different like getting outside for some fresh air or playing a game or doing some cooking as this may help. Please do what works best for you.

Staying Connected

Live Sessions

Last week, we sent out a timetable for when children and their teachers can connect online.

Next week, these sessions will still be happening but some days and times have had to change so below is a new timetable for the forthcoming weeks. You will see that Year 6 are having a daily check-in whereas other classes are having three sessions a week. Over time, this will evolve and is also very much dependent on the age of children, too. We are also looking at ways that our youngest children in Reception, can interact live with their teachers and friends.

Times/Day	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Rowans – Y1		9.00 – 9.30 am	9.00 – 9.30 am	9.00 – 9.30 am	
Beeches – Y2		11.30 am – 12.00pm	11.30 am – 12.00pm		9.00 – 9.30 am
Maples – Y3		1 – 1.30pm		1 – 1.30pm	1.45 – 2.15pm
Hollies – Y4			1 – 1.30pm	10.45 – 11.15 am	1 – 1.30pm
Oaks – Y5		1.45 – 2.15pm	1.45 – 2.15pm	1.45 – 2.15pm	
Monkey Puzzles – Y6	9.45 – 10.15am	9.45 – 10.15am	9.45 – 10.15am	9.45 – 10.15am	9.45 – 10.15am

The class teacher will send the link (through Google Classroom) you need to access 5 minutes before your session starts and will admit you into the group.

Coming up

From WB 25th January, we will be hosting a weekly live session for parents to join together virtually. These will be hosted by a range of staff and are an opportunity to catch up and connect as a parent community. There will be no formal agenda for the first session and it will be a chance for parents to catch up and check-in with each other. The first session will be on Thursday 28th January from 1 – 2pm. Please call or message the office to let them know that you would like to attend and we will send you the link via email. Can't wait to see you there!

Our Family Support Worker, Mrs Kavannah, will also be holding virtual coffee mornings very soon and we will let you know the dates and times of those.



Changes to Fridays

From next week, we will be operating normal school hours (8.30am-3pm) on Fridays for those children accessing learning in school. With the incredible support of our support staff, teachers will have their statutory PPA time with Remote Learning still finishing at 12.00pm on Fridays and resuming on a Monday morning. Teachers will be encouraging children at home to use these Friday afternoons for some well-earned rest and family time after such a busy week of Remote Learning or to do something physical at the end of the week.

Free School Meals

In the past 24hrs, the Government has announced that it will be re starting the national Free School Meals' (FSM) voucher scheme. This will be for pupils entitled to income-related FSM, who are not in school full time and will use a national company Edenred to issue the vouchers. This is the same as last Spring and Summer. This voucher scheme is being launched next week and our admin and finance teams are working incredibly hard, reading the guidance which came into schools just yesterday to prepare for this.



We are working hard to ensure the smooth roll out of this but you may recall that last year, due to the sheer volume of people trying to log onto the site, there were occasionally challenges. We are hoping that these issues will have been ironed out, but please be patient with our admin team. The system is a national one which we do not have control over but I can assure you they will work tirelessly to get it all working! We are able to access the system from Tuesday next week so will be in touch with you.

Supporting you

We know that this national lockdown is not only impacting upon schools but many people's work and personal lives. We are aware though, that this is a very challenging time financially for many families and we are working with a number of organisations to try to access food for families who may need it. If you are finding the current situation very difficult, please do contact us so we can look at how we can help and please don't hesitate to contact us.



Here are some local groups and email addresses which may be of use:

www.RE4orm.org.uk

www.torbayfoodalliance.org

www.whatsyourproblem.org.uk

Please look after yourselves and enjoy your weekend together. Thank you for your ongoing support. Remember that we are here for you!

My very best wishes and thanks,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "S.A. Ryan".

Miss Ryan
(Head of Academy)