



## Red Rose Primary School

1st July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

It is fair to say that the last few months have been something few of us will ever forget. It is hard to believe that 100 days have now passed since the beginning of lockdown. I do hope that you and your family have been able to stay safe and well during these testing times. Over the last 3 months, Red Rose has continued to remain open to children of key workers. For a number of weeks, we had only a small number of pupils and we became a small, tight knit bubble. The children were an absolute delight and a pleasure to have in school.

For those of you who have been able to stay at home, we thank you for your hard work, perseverance and ability to minimise the number of children needing to access school. As parents ourselves, we recognise the difficulties of home schooling and the challenge and frustrations of trying to simultaneously work from home. Your emails and communication have been continually positive, appreciative and supportive - thank you.

From the 17th June, we were able to begin our wider reopening of school and welcome EYFS back to school. We were delighted to see so many of you and welcome you back to school. The children's smiles and boundless energy gave the building the noise and energy it needed. In line with government guidance, we also prioritised the return of Year 1 and again were amazed at their ability to quickly adapt to changes in school and accept these as the new norm. Finally this week we welcomed back Year 6. Monday morning will certainly be something I remember quite vividly - it was wonderful to welcome so many children and parents coming through our school gates and to see so many smiles and happy faces (both children and parents!) Your Leavers' Hoodies look great and I can't believe how much some of you have grown!

It is with obvious regret that we can not welcome back everyone. Red Rose is only Red Rose when our whole school community is on site. Some parents may be wondering why we haven't been able to offer more? Unfortunately government guidance has currently stipulated that we can only reopen to key workers, then EYFS & Year 1 and then finally to Year 6, in that order. Bubbles can not exceed 15 and therefore there is a limit to our capacity. We currently have approximately just over 100 children on site and are at our maximum capacity under the current regulations.

During lockdown staff have been working very hard both in supporting children and their education both in school and at home, providing childcare for Key Workers and taking the opportunity to work on a number of different school improvement projects. For example:

- Our school library and reading scheme have been transformed and we have purchased over £2000 worth of new reading material.
- Eleven classrooms have been redecorated,
- A new interactive whiteboard has been installed in Apollo classroom
- Lots of new resources have been ordered

Over the summer holidays we are looking forward to a new educational kitchen area being installed for the children to use as part of the curriculum.

I can not thank staff enough for all their hard work, positivity and teamwork during a very difficult period.

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Thank you also to all of the parents and children who have adhered to our safety guidance during the wider reopening of school. Current government guidance can be found at:

[Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do until 4 July](#)

From 4th July government guidance is changing and further information can be found at:

[Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do after 4 July](#)

### September 2020

Many of you are no doubt wondering what September 2020 will bring. The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that they are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period. They recognise that teachers, support staff and school leaders deserve a break, to recharge and rest.

We are expecting an announcement on **Thursday 2nd July** regarding guidance on the reopening of school to children in September 2020. We know that many of you are wanting to know what September will look like but we need to wait until this guidance has been published before we can share what this will look like for your child. It is widely anticipated that all children will be returning to school after the summer break but how this will look and the detail around this, is currently unknown. I hope to share classes, staffing, our curriculum offer and more exact detail later next week. I apologise for the delay, but hope you recognise that the detail around this is currently out of our hands. Like you, we would like to know what this is going to look like as soon as possible.

### End of Year Reports

End of year reports have been completed and will be shared with you via email on Friday 10th July. I will be asking you to confirm your preferred email address via ParentMail at the beginning of next week.

### ParentPay

Parentpay is a way of paying for school meals, uniform, trips, after school clubs etc electronically. We are hoping to introduce ParentPay before the end of term, providing everyone with a safe and efficient way to pay for school items. Further, more detailed information will follow next week. If you do not bank electronically, please do not worry, other options will also be available.

### Uniform

We are hoping we are able to return to school in September in our school uniform. Uniform orders are currently being taken and we hope to distribute all orders w/c 13th July. We will be in contact once orders can be collected. Hopefully ParentPay will be in place so we can avoid the need for cash transactions. Please feel free to ring the office and place any orders.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs A Brinton  
Headteacher

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