

01.09.20

Return to School – 7th September

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that all of our students and families have had a good break over the Summer.

Once again I find myself writing to you during this ongoing period of Coronavirus. I do hope that you are all well and are coping with the complications Coronavirus continues to present.

I am delighted to welcome all of our students, including our new starters, back to school on 7th September. I look forward very much to seeing everyone.

I understand that there is a great deal of anxiety and concern over the return to school for both students and families. The Senior Leadership Team have spent a great deal of time preparing for the safe return of the students, planning and updating our Risk Assessment, to maintain safety for both our students and staff as well as providing a positive learning and supported environment for the students. We have followed guidance from the Government and have implemented measures to minimise any risk.

I have attached a copy of the Risk Assessment for your information and have listed the key measures implemented at the end of the letter, which hopefully will reassure you that the safety and well being of the students is, as always, our priority.

Please read the measure about school lunches carefully.

If you have any questions regarding this please contact me on 01304 373866 or email info@ripplevaleschool.co.uk.

Kind regards



Jane Norris

CEO/Head of School

Arrangements and procedures that will be implemented on 7th September

We ask that you continue to act as the first line of defence and screening against the spreading of Covid-19 (CV-19) by not sending your child/young person into school if they are showing any signs or symptoms and may potentially have the virus. Please call us for advice prior to sending your child into school if you are in any way unsure.

If your child, young person or a member of your household has one of the symptoms (some are identified below), please inform a member of the leadership team immediately and keep your child at home

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Social Distancing and Hygiene

We continue to follow the Government social distancing guidelines and will be encouraging our students to regularly wash their hands and to follow the two metre distancing, understanding personal space where possible.

Students will be placed into bubbles as follows:

- Primary
- Years 7 – 9
- Year 10 – 11
- Post 16

Within these bubbles students will remain with their class teacher / tutor groups as much as possible.

Outdoor Learning – there will be no spare clothing or boots. Students will have to bring in own clothing and boots to be worn in this area or they will NOT be able to participate.

PE lessons will be outside wherever possible. When this is not possible, PE lessons will be conducted in the sports hall. Pupils should be kept at a safe distance from one another while changing. Any use of equipment will be greatly restricted.

Students will remain within their bubbles for breaks in designated areas around the school.

Personalised equipment (labelled) will be provided and that will remain with that student for the duration of the term.

Students should not bring in toys without prior arrangement from Senior Leadership Team.

Lunch and Breakfast

Use of the Dining Room and Kitchen would compromise bubbles so the decision has been made to close the kitchen. This means that there will be no breakfast club or snack at break time either. Please would all parents and carers send their child in with a packed lunch to last the day along with a snack if they feel appropriate. Packed lunches will be eaten within tutor classroom.

If any students are entitled to free school meals or families will struggle to provide a daily packed lunch will they please contact Karen Hollis at the school to arrange provision of a school packed lunch. Please email on karen.hollis@ripplevaleschool.co.uk or ring on 01304 373866.

Students must bring in a bottle of water / sports bottle of water for the day as the water fountain has been turned off.

Cleaning

Robust cleaning around the school will be conducted daily, weekly and throughout the school day.

Transport

I understand that this may be a concern to many. If you have any concerns or question please will you ring them directly or email on homeschooltransport@kent.gov.uk.

We have been advised that a new "Returning to school using transport" section has been added to kent.gov.uk, to provide information about transport, guidance and the measures that have been adopted. This information will include a public information video to help inform parents, children. They are also writing to parents directly to provide this and other relevant information, including details about their child's specific transport arrangements.