



Ryhill Junior, Infant & Nursery School

Together we can achieve

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13th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Reception class: Planned Re-opening of School on Monday 7th September

Safety measures to reduce the risk in school

In all education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and will be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times and start/finish times)

How can you help reduce the risk?

Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school

Ensuring that pupils and other adults do not come into the school if they have [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#), or have tested positive in the last 7 days, and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).



If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

Parents/carers must understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they are displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the 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 (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (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. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

We would ask parents to inform us immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

In addition to this;

- parents and children cannot gather in groups or at doors on the playground and must maintain social distancing.
- parents cannot enter the building via cloakrooms and classrooms

- if speaking to a member of the office staff please respect a one person in / one person out policy in the entrance area and wait outside on the markings provided.
- please consider wearing a mask / face covering when dropping off or collecting your child

Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

This aside, our staff have been provided with a reusable face shield to wear (similar to the image on the right) if they wish to do so.

If you wish to send your child to school wearing a face shield or mask that is your choice. However government guidance states, *'face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission'*.



Regular opening times from 7th September

- Reception – 8.45 to 15.15 (13.00 finish on Friday).

Children must arrive promptly and be collected on time, it will adversely affect other classes if you do not adhere to these times.

Drop off and collection

Reception aged children will be based in their classroom at the side of school (next to Nursery)

Outside the classroom there will be white markings spaced 1 metre apart, please line up, with your child, on these markings until the class teacher opens the door. At this point leave your child and allow them to enter the classroom, you will not be permitted into the cloakroom.

If you have a message to pass to the class teacher, please call the school office beforehand (after 8.00am) and they will pass it on. If you urgently need to pass on a message, the school office / main reception area is operating a one in and one out policy (maintain social distance).

At the end of the day you will be called forward one by one to collect your child. They will wait in their classroom and the teacher will invite you to step forward and collect. Please be patient and maintain social distancing during this process.



Uniform

From September we will be back to wearing our usual school uniform. In the autumn term, uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

Dinners

There will not be a hot dinner option from September. Reception will have a dining room slot on their own. Children in Reception have the option of a free meal under the universal infant free school meal policy. A free meal will also be provided for pupils that qualify for benefits-related free school meals. Other pupils attending are also able to take the option to bring a packed lunch (please ensure lunch boxes are cleaned thoroughly daily).



Equipment

Children will be asked not to bring any additional unnecessary items from home into school. For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, it is recommended that pupils have their own items that are not shared, school will provide these. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the class bubble; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.

It is recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books and PE kits. Bags are allowed. Pupils can take books and other shared resources home. Similar rules on hand cleaning, cleaning of the resources and rotation apply to these resources.

Our additional behaviour principles for pupils from September

- follow any altered routines for arrival or departure – social distance on the way to and from school and line up on the designated markings
- follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- follow instructions on who you can learn and play with at school – stay in your group
- move around the school as instructed by your teacher (for example, queuing and keeping to your set areas at play time)
- ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ any sneezes or coughs either in a tissue or your elbow
- put used tissues in the bin
- avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes with your hands
- tell an adult if you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus
- avoid sharing any equipment or other items such as drinking bottles
- keep your distance between others at play time and stay in your set area

- only limited numbers at a time to use the toilets – you must ask permission beforehand
- No deliberate coughing or spitting at or towards any other person

If your child cannot follow these behaviour principles then they could jeopardise staff and other children's safety.

The drop off and collection of children

Now that we have various start and finish times in operation, as a consequence, staff, parents and children arrive and leave the school site at various times over a 30 minute window in the morning and in an afternoon. At times, to lock the school gate for this period would make it impossible to allow staff and other essential services to enter and leave the school site effectively.

Subsequently, for safety reasons we ask you and your children to be vigilant when entering the school site and crossing the road near the school gate. Likewise, if you are a parent / carer **do not** bring your vehicle onto the school site / carpark for drop offs or collections. Doing so could jeopardise people's safety. Please use an appropriate surrounding side street and park considerately.



If you have any further questions regarding the September return the please call the office before we break-up for summer or email headteacher@ryhill.wakefield.sch.uk

Have a lovely summer break and we hope to see you all again in September.

Kind regards,

E.Jones

Mrs. Jones (Head teacher)