



# Ryhill Junior, Infant & Nursery School

Together we can achieve

# Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

It is safe to say, these are again uncertain and unsettling times right now and we hope you and your family are keeping well.

As we all continue to make sense of things and take time to reflect, we feel it is important to reach out and let you know that school is there to help if we can.



Despite face-to-face learning not taking place for the foreseeable future, staff are making sure there is plenty of learning in place that can be accessed through ClassDojo, Teams and the school's many online learning platforms at home. Many of you are accessing this with great success. Homes up and down the country have once again been turned into classrooms.

Thank you for taking the time to complete our remote education survey. It has been lovely to read all of the positive comments, particularly your appreciation of our staff, who are currently working extremely hard to deliver lessons to children in school whilst at the same time providing education to pupils at home. It is very difficult to do two things at once! I thank those parents who offered comments of how we could improve our remote offer further. As well as passing on the feedback to staff, we will also work to try and address some of the more constructive suggestions.

## February half-term

We will close as usual over February half-term and we are not open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. We will not be providing lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#). This will be distributed by the council direct to those families who are eligible.



Designated Safeguarding Officers - Mrs E Jones, Mrs J Goddard, Mrs Kenyon | Social Care Direct - 0345 8 503 503

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Last week, the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the reopening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. Education settings, as well as students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education.

Schools and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now. All other pupils will continue to receive remote education at home. This is in line with the wider national lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus and respond quickly to the new variant.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

The NHS South West Yorkshire Partnership has launched a new guide to help adults in Barnsley, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield to 'choose well' when looking after their mental health and wellbeing. Staff and families can use this guide to look out for those close to them and direct them to the right support: [www.southwestyorks.hire.nhs.uk/choosewell](http://www.southwestyorks.hire.nhs.uk/choosewell) Other useful local and national mental health support services during this time include:



<https://wf-i-can.co.uk/> (An online resource for children and young people in Wakefield)

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> (Childline - Online, on the phone, anytime).

<https://www.kooth.com/> (Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community. Access free, safe and anonymous support).

### Useful education resources

- Lockdown learning from BBC Bitesize [here](#)
- Oak National Academy [here](#)

### Children and Families Support

During these difficult times, families may need some extra support. Wakefield Council put together the linked leaflet detailing some of the support services that are available to access during the lockdown and beyond for both well-being and practical help, advice and guidance. The leaflet is also accessible online, here:

<https://bit.ly/2Yjlgfc>

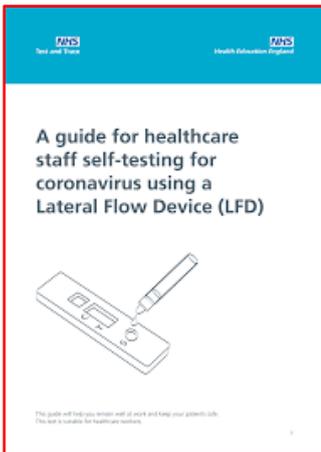


Please see below the link to the website for further information:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/about-the-council/coronavirus-information/wakefieldcares>

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## Regular testing of school staff

As staff interest in regular testing was extremely clear, we are now running our own staff testing operation in school. Lateral flow testing will be undertaken twice a week by those staff members that choose to participate.

## Term times and school holidays

### Spring term 2021:

School is open from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
Half term

School is open from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

### Summer term 2021:

School is open from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May  
Half term

School is open from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Kind regards,

Mrs E Jones  
Headteacher

### School INSET days:

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>  
June

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July

\*Additional Voting  
day May 2021 yet  
to be confirmed

### Bank Holidays:

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May