



Roehampton Church School

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Headteacher:
Richard Woodfin
B.A. Hons/PGCE NPOH

Deputy Headteacher:
Ruth Azurdia
B.A. O.T.S. Hons. NPOH

8th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all well and that the children are pleased to be back at school. We are all thrilled to see them again and first impressions are that they are all very well and desperate to get going again, which is wonderful to see!

I will expand upon a few points below including our plan to close the school on a Friday afternoon and the care arrangements in place for this.

PE

Your Child's class teacher will inform the children on which days they will be doing outside PE. At present ALL PE will be outside. On these days please send you child into school wearing the correct school PE kit and trainers (please see the website for details). They will wear this all day and this will cut down on the need to bring extra bags and changes of clothes into school. We are trying to minimise the amount of 'stuff' the children bring.

Bikes and scooters

We have decided that it is ok to come to school on a bike or a scooter. What we cannot offer now is access to the bike shed! So if you do want to come to school on a bike or a scooter please provide you child with their own lock so that the bike / scooter can be securely chained to the scooter parking racks that are situated at either end of the school.

Year 5 and Year 6

Only years 5 and 6 can be left unattended in the line at the beginning of the day. All younger children must be accompanied in the line by 1 ADULT only. We only allow years 5 & 6 to walk to school by themselves with the appropriate parental permission and this applies exactly the same to children being left unaccompanied in the line.

Email addresses

Please do ensure that the school office has a current / working email address for you. This is now our primary means of communication and it is how others and I will be distributing information and letting you know how things are going and any changes etc.

Year 1

I am so sorry to inform parents and carers that Mr Vincent is unable to be at school. We will ensure that the children have familiar faces to work with them in the classroom. I am confident that Mr Vincent will be back at school in the very near future. Any questions or concerns please do contact me. Many thanks.

One-way walking system!

Many thanks for everyone in the KS2 building who is keeping to the one-way walking traffic system. Please do ensure you walk up the pavement on the side of Ponsonby Road with the vicarage on and then cross over the road by Mr Smith in the mornings or adjacent to the end of the line in the afternoon. The thinking behind this is to keep as much social distancing as possible and prevent groups of people congregating on the pavement. We will run this system a while





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longer and then I might make a change depending on how things go. Two days in and the drop off is working better than the collection. Please bear with us and I will keep you informed of any changes.

Can I please ask that you do join the end of the line and wait until you are at the front of the line and then your child will be given to you. Please do not call them from up the line or over the Road as this could be dangerous and very confusing for the children, as the staff will be telling them not to move until we say so.

Friday early closing

We are pressing on with our idea of closing the school at 1pm on a Friday so that we can thoroughly clean and provide the statutory time for planning and preparation that we are obliged to do for the teaching staff. Now that we cannot use additional staff to work in different classes and in light of the fact, that we have six vulnerable and extremely vulnerable staff, we must be as careful as possible with cross-contamination risks. This week we will provide the time for the teachers as normal but we WILL NOT close early. We have managed to work a system where we can provide a limited amount of child care on the Friday afternoon in school so that the children don't have to go anywhere else. This will be until normal collection times of 3.10 or 3.20. What I must ask is that you let me know by the end of this week (Friday 11th) if you will need a childcare place for your child in school. These places are for parents and carers who do not have any other means of childcare until 3.10 / 3.20 i.e. working parents / carers. Please can you contact the school office stating that you need care until normal home time, who your child is, which class they are in and why you can't collect your child at 1pm. Providing we can get all the relevant pieces in place I am aiming to start this a week on Friday (Friday 18th September). Any issues or concerns please do contact me via the office. Many thanks.

Book bags only

In keeping with the aim to minimise the amount of things the children bring to school can I please reiterate that the children should only be bringing a book bag and their lunch box. Please leave rucksacks, pencil cases and other bags at home, as more baggage causes more potential risk. Books will be changed weekly, as we have to leave the bags for 72 before we can touch / examine etc !! At present, that's how we have to operate. I sincerely hope that things change soon as certain things are verging on the ridiculous if not over the line and are ridiculous. Safety has to come first.

Any concerns or questions please do get in touch. The children have been wonderful and I am completely confident we will work through any teething issue we have and reach the best place we can for all of us.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Richard Woodfin
Headteacher

