



Rusper Primary School, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4PR

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Headteacher: Nick Avey (BEd Hons)

**Together we learn, together we succeed**

28<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write in the context of this weekend's news regarding the emergence a new COVID variant of concern in South Africa – the 'Omicron Variant. Although it is currently just a concern, it is important that we respond with increased vigilance if we are to stay as safe as possible in the run up to Christmas. Thus, please can we ask, that from **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November**, parents revert to the following additional safeguarding measures on school grounds.

- Please can all parents wear a **face mask** (unless exempt) at drop off and pick up. RPS staff outside will do the same.
- Please can we ask all parents to respect distancing while waiting at **drop off**. Parents are asked to avoid (as far as possible) arriving before 8:45am. For our part, RPS will ensure the gates are open at 8:45 to create additional space in order to avoid bunching on the main drive. Although school doors and pupil admittance will not be until 8:50am as usual. Children onsite inside the main gates before 8:50 are the responsibility of their guardian and should be monitored at all times. They should not freely access the main school playground. Gruffalo pupils and guardians are asked to make their way round to queue on the path outside Gruafflo (as with pick up). Unicorn and Hobbit parents are asked to wait either on the drive or in space on the small playground (just inside the main gates). Thank you.
- At **pick up**, please can we ask all parents (especially Unicorn and Hobbit) to only use the distanced queuing system on the main school drive, the front school drive and outside Gruffalo. RPS will hand over pupils one by one in order of the parents in the queue. We then ask that parents use the contra-flow systems we had in operation previously to leave with their child promptly. Specifically, please can we ask that parents don't wait to collect their child anywhere other than in the distanced queue ie not between staff cars by the fence etc, as this can create additional congestion for families leaving.
- As before, parents with siblings across both key stages or in both key stage classes should prioritise collection of the younger child first.

With specific regard to the school Christmas Market on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November after school, this will still go ahead on the **school playground**. We will welcome maximum parent and pupil attendance, and thus will be as COVID-safe as possible. We will expect mask wearing by all adults except if eating/drinking. We will also provide hand sanitiser at all stalls, and ask people to respect distancing. Families who are attending may take their child round to the school playground after collection of their children. In this instance only, it is accepted that the efficient flow and distancing of parents and children on and off the school site (as described above) may not always be possible. However, please do respect distancing where possible.



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We also ask that all other existing safeguards be upheld. Regular LFTs of pupils are recommended in order to identify asymptomatic infection. The school will continue to notify parents if and when positive cases arise in school; and in this instance request LFTs for all pupils as required.

Attendance at school is still expected for all children unless they are unwell, Covid symptomatic, or if they return a positive LFT. In both Covid scenarios we ask parents to keep the child in question at home seek a confirmatory PCR.

For parental reassurance, RPS is ready to upscale it's COVID safeguards in school as soon as maybe required. In the meantime, we will maintain vigilance in school with our current measures, and we thank all parents for their on-going support with helping to keep the RPS as safe as possible.

Kind regards

Nick Avey, Headteacher, Rusper Primary School



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