



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

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[www.rusperprimary.eschools.co.uk](http://www.rusperprimary.eschools.co.uk)

Headteacher: Nick Avey (BEd Hons)

**Together we learn, together we succeed**

### RPS School Curriculum from March 8th

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we await the exciting and much needed return to school for all our children, please read on for information about how the school will support pupils' well-being and their learning with specific strategies and curriculum adaptations.

#### **Managing school anxiety**

Although many of our children will be looking forward to returning to school and seeing friends again, there is a chance that some children may experience some anxiety about returning to school. RPS staff anticipate this and have agreed the following support strategies.

- Our staff presence at morning drop off will be increased. Alongside Mr A there will be support staff on hand to offer that crucial transitional support at the point of entry into school. This will be maintained on a daily basis for as long as it is required.
- RPS staff will make good use of the excellent 'Back To School' resources and activities obtained from the Emotional Learning Support group <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/> to create positive and welcoming environments in each classroom
- Specifically, as a response to the negativity of COVID 19 restrictions and all the subsequent issues that may have arisen for our families and children, RPS will be promoting positivity and kindness. To help our pupils feel happy at school we will be encouraging acts of kindness. Over the next couple of weeks, the school will be using the book '**How Full Is Your Bucket?**' by **Tom Rath** to communicate the power of kind acts to 'fill our buckets' and help us feel good. Parents who wish to view the text or read it with their children at home are encouraged to do so. You can find youtube versions here <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=how+full+is+your+bucket%3f&docid=607990202434783021&mid=F639FC41B4F5127A6A27F639FC41B4F5127A6A27&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>
- In the first week back, RPS will be providing regular opportunities in class for pupils to talk with their peers and re-connect with friendships
- In the w/c 15.3.21 Teachers will undertake Phone Consultations with all parents. The purpose of these consultations is for parents to raise any specific concerns school should be aware of (and of course, feedback how they feel about their child's learning at home during Lockdown 3). This will be optional for those parents of pupils who attended school during Lockdown 3.



Find out more about  
returning to school safely at  
[gov.uk/backtoschool](http://gov.uk/backtoschool)



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### **Promoting on-going well-being**

Each week, pupils will have regular access to activities that will support and promote well-being. These include

- Class Management strategies derived from the Emotional Learning Support group resources (see link above)
- Increased PE lessons and broader practical outdoor learning. Pupils in Reception will have specific PE each week, and will have access to outdoor play-based learning every day. Pupils in Y1-Y6 will have access to a range of opportunities including
  1. Coached PE and Fitness with a coach from Horsham Sports
  2. Coached Fitness with a coach from Outdoor Fitness
  3. Coached dance with a teacher from KC Dance
  4. Forest Schools with a trained teacher + Mrs Wickens
- PSHE lessons that utilise researched and approved approaches to teaching about positive mental health via the Wellbeing For Education Return programme
- The school will provide targeted support for specific pupils with higher emotional needs via
  1. Fegans Counselling <https://www.fegans.org.uk/about-us/> We have access to our allocated counsellor until the end of the Spring Term
  2. Mrs Caplin (our Learning Mentor/ Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) will be working two days per week after Easter to provide programmes of 1:1 and small group emotional support.

**We will of course, continue to be prescriptive about hand hygiene and 'COVID safe' rules, but these protocols will be taught in a lower key way, as reminders. Our pupils were brilliant at COVID safety last time, and we expect this school return to be no different.**

### **Academic Curriculum Year R**

Reception will continue to follow the EYFS as before, and Mrs Rodgers will be making assessments against the EYFS Profile as she would ordinarily. Gruffalo staff have also undertaken training in the **Nuffield Early Language Intervention** programme. This will enable them to deliver high quality 'catch up' support in early language development to our youngest pupils that need that extra boost. Information about this programme can be found here. <https://www.elklan.co.uk/neli/about-neli>

### **Academic Curriculum in Year 1 to 6**

The statutory responsibility for Primary schools to run the usual formal assessment and reporting arrangements has been removed for this year. This means there will be **no SATS** in 2021, and none of the other formal assessments eg Phonics Screen in Y1 and Times Table Screen in Year 4 etc

This now means that teachers don't have to rigidly follow the assessment Frameworks for reading, writing and maths in their teaching programmes. In line with DfE and Local Authority guidance, RPS



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will now be refining its core curriculum programmes to those elements of Reading, Writing and Maths which are the most essential for pupil progress. Typically our emphasis will be on reading and vocabulary development in Literacy; and on core number skills and processes in maths. With the refined frameworks in place, we will use ongoing assessments of our pupils to find out where the confidence gaps in these key elements are; and then teach according to the gaps. In due course we will provide more detailed information on these frameworks and how we will report pupil progress against them in July.

Parents are asked to note that the school now receives '**Catch Up Funding**'. Details of how the school will strategically spend this money to achieve the best outcomes can be found on the school website, under **School Information**. A central strategy is for RPS to use outdoor coaches to work with small groups (sometimes individual year groups), this has the double benefit of leaving the teachers free to work with smaller numbers in class, and deliver much more targeted curriculum 'catch up' support; while also increasing the amount of exercise and fresh air our pupils get. Sessions with the coaches are done by rota to ensure equal coverage by all.

RPS will also continue to teach a broad curriculum with all Foundation subjects covered effectively using the latest resources in weekly or two-weekly projects, between now and July. These projects will see a specific subject given between 5-6 hrs coverage in that week. The exceptions to this will be PSHE, PE and Spanish (Y3-Y6) which will be taught every week.

For the remainder of this year, RPS will be preparing to teach the statutory **Relationships, Sex and Health Education**. There will be subsequent consultations with parents and school governors about this before the school adopts its new policy.

### Pupils with Specific Needs

As ever, RPS will continue to tailor and adapt curriculum support as required for those pupils with specific needs. Parents of pupils with SEN can expect the dialogue at the upcoming Parent Teacher phone consultations to focus on how RPS will adapt provision to meet their child's needs.

Although only a summary is provided here, we trust parents will feel these approaches are both comprehensive and striking the right balance between our pupils' academic and wellbeing needs. In essence we aim for a mix of social and academic development via a balance of practical and focussed academic work. If parents wish to discuss any of these items further, please make contact as usual. We very much look forward to seeing you all again.

Kind regards

Nick Avey, Headteacher, Rusper Primary School



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