

13th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support since the beginning of the CV-19 situation. As you're aware our staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to work with you to keep our children safe, fed and looked after and we thank you for your support with this.

We are looking to September now and planning for a safe return for all students. The government issued new guidance last week and we are currently working through that to ensure that we can meet all of the principles and measures that are required for a full reopening in September.

The measures include:

Prevention

- Minimising 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
- Clean hand more often than usual
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Introduce entrance cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

Response to infection

- Engage with the NHS test and Trace process
- Manage confirmed cases of CV-19 within the school community
- Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

What are we doing at Rise Carr College to meet the measures?

- 1) If your child or anyone who lives in the same house has symptoms of coronavirus, or has tested positive in the last 7 days, they **must not** attend school
- 2) Anyone developing these symptoms during the day will be sent home from school. Students must be collected by a member of their household – they will not be allowed to walk home/catch the bus. This measure is designed to prevent wider infection within the community. People in this situation must follow the governments stay at home guidance, they must self-isolate for 7 days and arrange for a test. Other members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to an isolation room within school, with adult supervision and the adult will be required to wear PPE. If the situation is deemed serious enough we will call 999, as would be our usual practice.
- 3) Students and staff will be asked to sanitise their hands on entry to the building. Years 10 and 11 will now enter the building through the fire exit at the bottom end of school. Years 7,8, and 9 will enter through the main entrance. Should Year 10 and 11 arrive late, they will enter through the main entrance. There are now sanitising stations at every entrance to the building and in every classroom. Students will be asked to sanitise their hand regularly throughout the day and after using the toilets and before eating. They will be asked to sanitise their hand on entering the classroom and will be asked to sanitise their desk/workstation before they leave.

This is to minimise the risk to staff throughout the day. The main reception is now 'out of bounds' for all children in school other than when entering and leaving the building.

- 4) We have purchased lidded bins for every room. This is to support the 'catch it' kill it, bin it' approach. Each classroom has a supply of tissues, paper towels and wipes.
- 5) We have reviewed our cleaning regimes and need our students to support us with this. Cleaning staff will be in school more during the school day but students must use the bins provided and ensure that their areas are kept clean and tidy.
- 6) Students will be asked to socially distance as much as possible. We are starting the term in 'bubbles' and students **must** remain within their bubble throughout the day to minimise risk and infection. The principle of this is to minimise the number of people (both students and staff) that they come into contact with so that if there is a positive case it is easy to identify those who may need to self-isolate and to keep that number to a minimum.
- 7) Within the classroom it is strong public health advice that staff in secondary schools maintain their distance from students. Ideally this should be 2 metres, and this should be the aim when circumstances allow. Students will not be seated face to face around tables, again this is to reduce the risk of infection.
- 8) For now, students will eat lunch within their bubble room. There will also be no 'off-site' provision at lunch times. Again this is to reduce the risk of infection. This will be reviewed on a regular basis. The food service will be a packed lunch service in the first instance.
- 9) Initially in September we will have Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 starting and finishing at different times and will be using the DFE laptops to support some additional learning at home. All students have a laptop and it is an expectation that they will complete the set work at home as part of their new timetable.
- 10) If students are arriving by public transport they must remove their face covering before coming into the school building.
- 11) Mobile phones will be handed in to teacher in charge of the bubble and locked away and returned to the students at the end of the day. Students will place their phones into the trays so that staff do not need to be in direct contact with them. Coats and bags will also be locked away in the bubble classroom.
- 12) Students will have their own sets of pens etc. within the classroom, they should not share equipment during the day. School will provide these resources.
- 13) Staff, students and parents/carer **must** engage with the Track and Trace service and government self-isolation and testing guidance should we have a suspected or confirmed case of CV-19 in school. It is likely that by Autumn schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits for any cases when symptoms develop in school.
- 14) Students should return to school in their normal school uniform from 2nd September. This includes RCC polo shirt, black trouser and black shoes. Please contact Diane Charlton if you need to order any uniform in addition to the items already supplied by school.
- 15) We will continue with breakfast provision in school, for the time being this will be served within the bubble room and not in communal dining areas.

What if we have a confirmed case?

In this case we will contact the local health protection team and they will conduct a risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the case. Based on this advice we will send home anyone who has been in close contact with the person who has tested positive. Household members of anyone sent home do not need to self-isolate unless the person who was sent home shows symptoms. In this case they must follow the stay at home and testing guidance.

Attendance at School

All students are expected to attend school from September. Good attendance is key to academic and social development in school. All of the usual rules on attendance will apply from September 2nd, when children return to school.

As far as we are aware we have no children who are shielding due to a pre-existing medical condition. If you or your children are shielding, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss the clinical advice that you will have been given.

I understand that some of you may be anxious about children returning to school and we have done everything possible to ensure a safe return for your children. If there is anything that you are unsure about or wish to discuss please contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss your concerns.

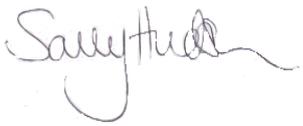
Other things

I have included some information with this letter on 'The Bread and Butter Thing' which is a food scheme running in Darlington. If you wish to access this please contact them directly. The information is in this letter and on our website.

I have also included a list of useful numbers for over the summer break.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy, healthy and restful summer, and we look forward to welcoming our students back into school in September.

Take care and stay safe.



Sally Hudson
Headteacher

Useful numbers for over the summer:

Sally – 07984 151 026

Sam - 07872 008454

Clare - 07889 212777

Hayley - 07732 604353

Tina – 07816 677740

Social Care Out of Hours Duty team (emergencies only) - 01642 524552

Test and Trace - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ or 119 if you have no internet access