




RICHMOND AVENUE PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

A MEMBER OF SECAT (SOUTHEND EAST COMMUNITY ACADEMY TRUST)
RICHMOND AVENUE, SHOEBURYNNESS, ESSEX, SS3 9LG



 01702 292197
 admin@richmond-pri.southend.sch.uk
 www.richmond-avenue.co.uk

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As the start of the school year draws close, we wanted to let you know that we are all looking forward to seeing all the children and welcoming everybody back to school next week.

Staff have been busy over the Summer Holidays preparing for children to return and the school may look and feel different. We are establishing new procedures and school rules to help everybody feel safe and be protected ready for all to return on Monday 7th September.

There are many changes in line with Government and DfE guidance, so please read through the whole of the attached guidance carefully which, along with the School Risk Assessment (available on our website) provide important information about returning to school.

We will share and guide children through the new expectations in as child friendly way as possible within their classes in an age appropriate way. We want children to enjoy their return to school, ensuring that they continue to feel safe, secure and cared for whilst with us each day.

We understand that returning to school will be an exciting prospect for many but also that some may be reluctant or anxious. Please spend some time explaining the information in the Parent Guide and from the messages sent out on the App and Facebook page throughout this week in the most appropriate way for your child. We will, where possible be following the 2m social distancing rule - some children are unlikely to understand what 2 metres looks like so it would be useful to show them this at home. You can also help by teaching them how to wash their hands thoroughly.

Parents are also encouraged to visit the Government website to help them plan for their children's return to school. This includes the latest update to 'what parents need to know' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

©ELSA support have produced an excellent 'Back to school after coronavirus story' which you can access here: <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/back-to-school-after-coronavirus-story/>

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We also recommend watching the following video with your child, younger children.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=2PnnFrPaRgY>

We hope that these measures will prove temporary and we shall of course keep you informed of any change in guidance and practice. If you have any questions or queries, please email the school office email address office@richmond-pri.southend.sch.uk.

We would like to reassure you that we will continue to make the school as safe as it can be and look forward to seeing all of the children on Monday 7th September.

Thank you in advance as we work together to keep your children and the school staff as safe as possible so that we can all return to what we enjoy most, supporting your children in achieving and learning together.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Money Penny

On Site Lead

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A Parent Guide to Returning to School:

Health & Hygiene:

We will endeavour to maintain social distancing when possible between children and adults. We will continue to share health and hygiene routines with the children:

- Supporting the frequent washing of hands: before leaving home, on arrival at school, after playing outside/PE, before eating, after sneezing/coughing, after using the toilet, after using equipment
- Promoting the 'Catch it-bin it-kill it' campaign
- Encouraging children to avoid touching their face with their hands
- Understanding that the school and equipment within classes will be cleaned regularly and thoroughly to the best of our ability.
- Being aware that staff will not be wearing PPE unless necessary.

Attendance:

Attendance is compulsory for all children, unless your child:

- Is self-isolating
- Has symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result
- Has been in close contact with someone with coronavirus

School Events

How we might run normal, calendared events such as Parent Consultations is still under review and we are considering how we can maintain this important contact with parents but do it within safety guidelines.

We ask that you bear with us regarding these other aspects of school life

Children Wellbeing and Support

We recognise that some children will have experienced a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus outbreak and will support children with their emotional wellbeing and mental health. If you have any concerns about your child please speak to a member of staff on the gate in the morning or contact the School Office by phone 01702 292197 or email office@richmond-pri.southend.sch.uk

Personal Belongings

To ensure that we minimise the impact of any cross contamination, we are asking that the children only bring in their essentials into school.

Essential items include:

- A coat and/or sun hat/sun cream as appropriate
- A full water bottle labelled with their name (which will be kept in the classroom)
- A packed lunch if not taking a school meal (which will be kept in the classroom).
Please ensure that your child can unwrap/open the items in their lunchboxes.

Please do not bring into school any other personal items. All items the work resources that the children will need will be provided by the school

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Start and End Times

As you are aware, we are staggering the start and end times of the day to support social distancing as the children come into their classes.

We are aware that some parents will have multiple drop off times and we will be regularly reviewing the staggered times once children return and will be working towards minimising them as much as possible as soon as we can.

Children in all year groups will enter the school through their allocated gate, at allocated times, saying goodbye to parents at / before they reach the gate.

Uniform

Children will be expected to wear the correct school uniform upon return in the Autumn term.

For PE:

- Children will need to bring in a pair of trainers/plimsolls to change into for PE
- They will not be changing into PE kits for the first half of the term to minimise cross contamination.

Enquiries

Due to the current climate, parents should not come into the school building

- Only when strictly necessary, through a prearranged appointments over the phone should parents come into school
- If there is a need to come into the School Office please observe the signs – one person at a time, wearing a face mask.
- Any meetings will be conducted safely, at a safe distance.

If you have any queries you should telephone the School Office and they will be happy to assist you. Alternatively, you can email the School.

Curriculum

Our learning will focus on a 'Recovery Curriculum' providing children with opportunities to listen, question and discuss their feelings and experiences over the last few months so to consider their mental health and wellbeing; renewing friendships; establishing routines about staying safe and understanding the structures to the day to help them adapt to the new learning environment and new ways of learning

- We will continue to teach our broad and balanced curriculum whilst ensuring that children quickly catch up with any learning that they have missed.
- Statutory Primary assessments for Years 2 and 6, as well as the Phonics screening check in Year 1 and Year 2 and the multiplication tables check in Year 4 will take place in Summer 2021.
- Contact sports in PE lessons will not take place.

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Becoming ill with COVID-19

The main symptoms of Coronavirus are:

- high temperature
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more
- coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your normal sense of smell or taste

Further advice is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

What happens if my child is unwell at home?

- You must inform the school as soon as possible.
- If your child, or anyone in your household, develops COVID-19 symptoms, then you should follow the government guidelines and isolate the whole household for 14 days, and the person with symptoms for at least 10 days from the onset.
- You should seek a test for anyone with symptoms.
- Please inform us immediately if your child tests positive for COVID-19.
- If your child tests negative, they may return to school as soon as they are feeling better.

What happens if my child is unwell at school?

- If your child is unwell, we will contact you as usual and ask you to collect them **immediately**.
- If your child is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, then they will be asked to wait in a room on their own and a member of staff will supervise them.
- You will be asked to isolate your whole household for 14 days, to arrange a test for your child, and to let us know the outcome (either way).
- If your child tests positive then we will ask everyone who has been in your child's bubble group to isolate at home for 14 days, including staff.
- If your child tests negative, they may return to school as soon as they are feeling better and your family will no longer need to isolate.

We will follow any guidance received by Public Health England. If other cases are detected Public Health England will conduct a rapid investigation

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