



Rossllyn Park Primary & Nursery School

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Weekly Briefing Friday 17th April 2020

I hope you are all well and coping ok under the lockdown. Apologies that I did not send out an update last week but it was my week of non-contact time at home. I just have a few things to make you aware of, some of which you will be aware of anyway. We have had between 10 and 12 children in school over the Easter period however we are expecting this to increase to roughly 18 to 20 as of next week.

Lockdown Extension

As you will be aware the lockdown was extended yesterday for another three weeks. I know this is incredibly difficult time for all of us and please utilise the resources that Julia has been sending through. It was also interesting that Dominic Raab indicated that 5 criteria would need to be met before the lockdown was lifted. The link to a BBC article discussing this is below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52313715>

School Closure/Reopening

Now that the lockdown has been extended we know for certain that school will not be reopening for at least the next three weeks. However, beyond that we cannot say anything with any certainty at all. There has been some rumour and speculation that schools will reopen after June half-term however I don't think anyone can predict anything with regards to next steps.

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/coronavirus-pm-urged-to-publish-evidence-on-increased-risks-of-reopening-schools/>

It is interesting to keep an eye on what is happening in countries who are ahead of us on the 'curve' but even this is of no real use at predicting what will happen next. Italy and Spain have relaxed some of their lockdown measures however France have extended theirs. Denmark became the first country in Europe (of those that closed schools) to partially reopen schools – opening to Primary age children but not to secondary.

<https://www.ft.com/content/de2027d4-5153-462b-a38d-75b7a5ddad17>

What is of interest in the article above is some of the measures that are in place in order to prevent the spread of COVID – 19. Children are in smaller class sizes, they need to keep 2m apart and they go outside as often as possible. What is clear is that it is not life back to normal. I think we need to prepare ourselves for something similar when we return, whenever that may be. Until a vaccine is developed I don't think anything will return to normal.

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Safeguarding

I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to Amy, Bex and Hazel who have been working throughout the last two weeks ensuring that our most vulnerable families are contacted and social workers are liaised with. It is a very stressful time for them and they are doing an amazing job under very difficult circumstances. They may request agency check information from you and if you are able to could you get this back to them as soon as possible. A huge thank you to Diane, Glenn, Julia, Nichole and Joy who have also been contacting other vulnerable families and providing support where they can.

We continue to meet via Zoom on a weekly basis and review those children who are invited into school. Through this process we have identified a further five children who we are concerned about and have extended an invitation to attend school. We will see next week whether this offer is taken up or not.

Free School Meals/Magic Breakfast

As of Monday Aspens will return to offering hampers or hot meals to FSM pupils. They were unable to do this during the Easter period so we attempted to access the national voucher scheme for our families. This has proved to be somewhat of a farce and despite Andy's efforts parents only received vouchers yesterday. Andy has fielded a huge amount of emails and calls from anxious parents and is another person I would like to offer significant thanks too.

He has also liaised with Magic Breakfast so that those parents who are collecting hampers each week have access to additional food supplies. This means that as of Monday, in addition to the weekly hamper, Magic Breakfast will be providing additional Cereal, Bagels and Baked Beans to families. Unfortunately these are only available for FSM families however it is not our intention to turn away any family away arrive at school to collect a hamper or hot meal. Could please bear this in mind when contacting or speaking with families. If you suspect or are worried about a family going hungry then please log it as a concern and the Safeguarding team and ourselves will do our best to provide food parcels for families. Unfortunately, we have had to do this for several families already.

Finally

Thank you to all of you for the work that you have been doing both in school and at home. Please make sure that you take up your 'Easter Break' when it is your turn and try your best to enjoy time with your family. Things are difficult right now but as they say on my favourite Podcast 'things will be alright in the end and if it's not alright then it's not the end'.

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