Rufford Park Post





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Headteacher's news: school closure week 4

Earlier this week, the DfE confirmed that schools will close at February half term which, I believe, is the correct decision. I suspect that they were waiting to see if the infection rate continued to drop and have used this to predict the likely strain on our critical services - particularly the NHS - in the weeks ahead. I think that all the children will benefit from a break from school and home learning and that this will relieve the pressure on parents and carers too. The staff will certainly be ready to switch off and recharge their batteries.

National news has been grim this week but there was a positive announcement made by the government about the possible reopening of schools from 8 March. I think we all agree that the reopening needs to happen as soon as possible but that it must be at a time when it is safe to do so.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and the teachers have included information on their blogs and / or on their weekly timetables about this. Please take some time to look at these resources - supporting mental health in children and young people has never been so important in our lifetime. This BBC video is useful and this SCARF website looks good too. Thank you to Mrs Connolly for taking a lead on this subject and signposting resources to teachers.

Take care and stay safe.

Remote Education Provision (Home Learning)

Last week, I sign posted you to the school's remote education provision document which is saved on the website: Information>Covid-19.

It contains important expectations for the children and for the parents. If you haven't done so already, please take some time to read this document and discuss the relevant parts of section 'iv Engagement' with your child.

Leeds City Council have also issued a short briefing paper on remote learning which is saved in the same section on our website.

Please click on your child's class below to read a message from your class teacher and get the links to next week's home learning. **Nursery** Reception Y1 Pear Y1/2 Lime

Y3 Willow Y3/4 Cedar Y4 Beech

> Y5 Oak Y5/6 Ash Y6 Maple

Free School Meals: do you qualify to receive FSM and Milk?

Please click on the picture to take you to the section on the website where you can find out more. This is applicable to all



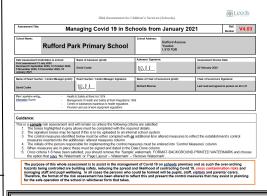
children from Nursery to Year 6. Even though children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, you should still register for FSM. This is so that school can claim funding to support your child at school.

Testing staff in Primary and Nursery **Settings**

The staff have now started to engage with the government's mass testing programme for primary and nursery workforces. Testing is optional for staff and the principal purpose is to detect cases in asymptomatic people.

WHOLE SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT

Earlier this week, I met with Mr. Briscoe (Chair of Governors) to review the updated Risk Assessment for the school. This is now a very lengthy document so the new additions are in red. It can be found in the Information>Covid-19 section of the website.



Dates for the diary

Y2 Cherry

12 Feb: School closes for February Half Term (confirmed by the DfE)

22 Feb: School opens to critical worker and vulnerable pupils for Spring 2