

## 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](#)   [Y2 Cherry](#)  
[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.

Leeds

Risk Assessment for Children's Services (Schools)

Managing Covid 19 in Schools from January 2021

School Name: **Rufford Park Primary School** School Address: **Rufford Avenue, Yeadon, LE19 7DR**

Chair of Governors: **David Cooke** Name of Assessor (parent): **David Cooke** Assessor Signature: *[Signature]* Assessor Review Date: **28 February 2021**

Name of Head Teacher / Centre Manager (parent): **David Cooke** Head Teacher / Centre Manager Signature: *[Signature]* Name of Chair of Governors (parent): **Richard Briscoe** Chair of Governors Signature: *[Signature]*

Sign (signature and date): **David Cooke** Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations, Protection and use of work equipment regulations

Guidance: This is a **sample** risk assessment and will remain so unless the following criteria are satisfied: 1. The **sample** highlighted in grey above must be completed with the required details. 2. The **sample** below may be updated to suit the individual school system. 3. The control measures identified below must be either complied with or additional / or altered measures to reflect the establishment's control measures reported into the additional / altered measures column. 4. The initials of the person responsible for implementing the control measures must be entered into 'Control Measures' column. 5. When measures are in place these must be signed and dated in the Date Done column. 6. Once criteria 1-6 have been satisfied, you should remove the 'Sample' watermark, FORMAT-BACKGROUND-PRINTED WATERMARK and choose the option that suits you: 'Watermark' or 'Page Layout' - 'Watermark' - 'Remove Watermark'.

The purpose of this whole assessment is to assist in the management of Covid 19 on school premises and to suit the over-arching hazards being controlled are building safety, reducing the spread and likelihood of contracting Covid 19, cross contamination risks and managing staff and pupil wellbeing. In all cases the persons who could be harmed are people, staff, visitors and parents/careers. Therefore, the format of the risk assessment has been altered to reflect this and present the control measures that may assist in planning for the safe operation of the school in whichever form that takes.

## Dates for the diary

**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