



## Ravensdale Junior School

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Dear parents and carers

What a challenging start to the New Year for us all! Thankfully, as far as I am aware at the moment, we have a full complement of teaching staff returning to school and we are all very keen to make the school environment as safe as possible for pupils and staff.

Over the Christmas break, we have been informed of a few cases of parents testing positive, but very few of children. We only have one member of staff who will be off due to a positive test at the beginning of term and they are not a teacher or TA. I am extremely grateful that our staff take such care to follow the guidance in both their personal and professional lives.

Our key aim for the start of term is to keep everyone safe. With this in mind, we will be revising some aspects of our risk assessment.

1. There have been several examples over Christmas, of parents and children starting with a headache, runny nose, sore throat, stomach ache and then moving onto Covid19 symptoms and a positive test. Therefore, if your child has any of these symptoms, or the typical Covid19 symptoms of a high temperature, loss of taste or smell and a cough, we are asking you to **keep them at home** and home learning will be provided. We are asking staff to do the same. We are aware in school of children who have an asthma related cough, or may have anxiety related stomach aches, but please call school if you are unsure. If you do leave a voicemail message regarding a child who is absent due to illness, please be **very specific about their symptoms** and when they first started.
2. **Teaching staff will be wearing a face mask or shield more often**, but not for whole class teaching.
3. All classrooms will have **two small windows open at all times**. With this in mind, it may be a good idea for pupils to wear an extra layer of clothing such as a vest. However, we will make sure that it is not cold.
4. **Teachers will not speak to parents at the end of the day**, but phone them to pass on any messages. Our office phones are always monitored/answered until 4.30pm, so we would ask parents do to the same if you wish to speak to staff.
5. We are asking **parents to consider wearing a face covering** when dropping off and collecting children. As this is on the park, this is not something we can enforce, but would be a very welcome addition to the steps we are taking.
6. The dismissal of Year 5 and 6 pupils is working very well, but **for Year 3 and 4 pupils**, the following needs to be in place to assure the safety of all present:

- **Please do not use the park.** Children are then mixing bubbles and touching many of the same surfaces.
- Please **only arrive at the right time for your child's class.** Teacher's are being as vigilant as possible at making sure they are at the gate at their allotted time. Once you have collected your child/children, please **leave the area immediately.**
- Once you have dropped off your children in the morning, please leave immediately and do not stop to chat to other parents.
- Please come in waterproof shoes/boots and be prepared to wait in a socially distanced manner on the grass. **Do not wait on the path or mix with other families and parents while waiting for your child to be dismissed.** There is plenty of room to wait socially distanced on the grassy area and it means that the path is then free for parents arriving and leaving. Remember to wave to the teacher once you have made eye contact with your child.
- **Do not approach teachers to speak to them** at the end of the day.

We will not be able to use the main entrance for the foreseeable future, so we need to ensure we get this right.

Ravensdale Staff are being extremely careful in their private and professional lives and I am imploring you to do the same to reduce the risk to staff and other families. We were aware before the holidays of some families mixing and children having sleepovers which is very concerning. **This virus can affect people of all ages.** One of our members of staff has a neighbour who used to be out running marathons and can now barely walk to his car. A recent suggestion was that we all '**act as though we may have the virus**'. This doesn't mean self-isolate, but it does mean **following the current Tier 4 rules to the letter. Detailed information can be found here:** [\*\*https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home\*\*](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home)

**I am extremely grateful for your support for the school and for following the guidance.**

If there are any changes made after the announcement from Boris Johnson this evening at 8pm, I will send out another update to parents as soon as possible.

**Kind regards**



**Zoe Cannon**