

Riseley C of E Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr David Dyson

Interim Executive Headteacher: Mrs Vicki Morrall



Newsletter 8.5.2020

Message from the Headteacher:

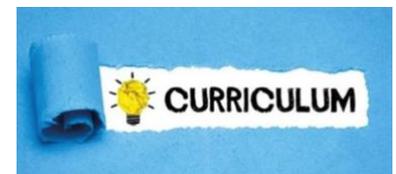


I sincerely hope that you are all safe and well and that you are continuing to manage during these challenging and unknown times. Thank you to all children, parents, families and of course, staff and governors who have been amazingly supportive of our school and also of each other. There are some wonderful stories of communities and residents pulling together to look after each other and make sure that people, especially the vulnerable, have food, essentials and also a little bit of human contact (if at a distance)



Life at school has been enormously different from the usual hustle and bustle which we are all used to. School has been open throughout this time, supporting children who need to be in school to allow their parents to work and also for staff to be able to make contact with children and families, to check in and see how you are. Our new Class Dojo platform, has made this infinitely easier and also given staff a place to share photos, give ideas for challenges and activities and support parents and children where needed. Please do keep checking Dojo, as this will, over time, develop to be our main source of communication and method of contact for parents and teachers. This does not mean it will replace the essential face to face contact, which we will eventually be able to get back to, but it will run alongside this to make contacting school easier for those who cannot be in school each day at pick up or drop off.

Riseley C of E Primary is currently undergoing a huge change in terms of its curriculum. Alongside the home learning, keeping in touch with you all and also working with keyworker children, the staff have been extremely busy rewriting the entire curriculum for September. This is a huge project which will see us reduce the number of topics covered, allowing for deeper learning and embedding knowledge and skills more effectively. We are working on linking our topic learning to trips and visitors and also weaving literacy texts and writing opportunities more tightly to the topics themselves. We are also altering the Maths curriculum for September, with the intention of using a Mastery approach across the school.



I must say that staff have been amazing with this – it is not easy to take on such big projects, but they have done so with commitment, enthusiasm and in such a collaborative way, that we are already seeing huge progress and a curriculum taking shape which will be a joy to deliver and also aspirational for our children.

This project is being led by Mrs Hutchinson, who is with us for the Summer Term, supporting us with school management and improvement. My thanks to Mrs Hutchinson and also all our Teachers for their excellent work so far.

Please keep safe everyone, we miss you all and hope to see you again soon when we are safe to be back together.

Best wishes, Mrs Morrall

Home Learning

Thank you to those parents who have been in touch with Teachers to ask about the possibility of online, live learning opportunities. At this time, we will be continuing to offer printed packs of lessons, activities and worksheets and supplementing them for those who want more with the online resources on our website.

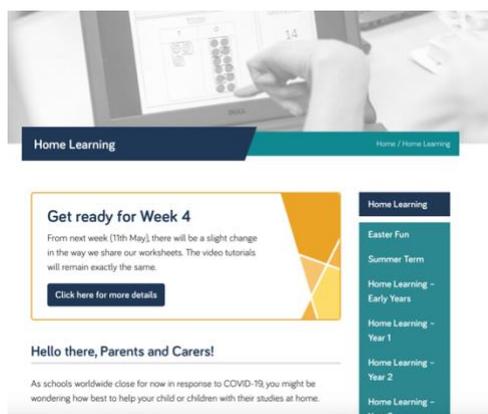
Some parents have asked for lessons to be live/streamed for children to link into from home. We are not able to offer this for a number of reasons; most significantly is that our remit as a school is to be inclusive and to ensure all children are able to access learning from home. We are acutely aware that not all families can access devices, have stable internet connections or the time to access this – many parents are balancing working from home and parenting/home schooling. To make this as fair as possible, we have used the printed packs which can be done at any time without the reliance on technology.

However, we fully appreciate that children and parents may want more than this, which is why we have some links on our website which can be used to add more structure to the day or provide additional learning if required. Two sites which are particularly good, offering video lessons and also activities are:

- Oak National Academy www.thenational.academy

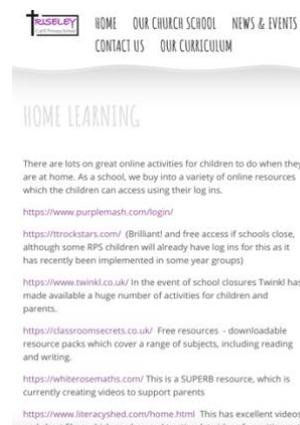
This has been put together specifically for home learning during the lock down period, by Teachers and educationalists and is recommended by the DfE.

There are lessons from Year R to Year 10 and can be searched either by year group or by subject, depending on what you would like your children to do.



- www.whiterosemaths.com is also excellent to use as a resource, written by maths specialists and delivered by Teachers, this is a good place to go to for extra lessons.

Some parents are saying that children are losing motivation and finding this period increasingly difficult to manage. This is certainly true in my household, where my own children are finding this period difficult.



It may be helpful to use the printed resources in quite a structured way, and use the Oak Academy to have a Maths and an English lesson in the morning and then use the afternoons as more 'Cool' time (Choosing Our Own learning) This is only a suggestion and of course, you are welcome to manage your children and your time in anyway which suits your circumstances.

Returning to School

As you will all be aware, we are waiting with bated breath to see what Boris has to say about loosening the lockdown and a possible return for schools. I wish I could say that I have insider information about this, but I know as much as you do, which makes planning a possible return rather challenging as it could take many forms. We are constantly reviewing all the systems and procedures in place at school, this includes home learning and communication with you all. This will continue to be the case moving forwards, when we have an indication of what a return may look like, we will be in touch to outline our plan and let you know what will happen and when.



Kids Club – September 2020

We are considering making some changes to our wraparound care provision, 'Kids Club'. At the moment it is open from 8am to 5:30pm and only for children in YR – Y6.

We are considering opening at 7:30 – 6pm each day and also having provision for Nursery children. Sometime next week, a survey monkey will be available on our website, for you to let us know if this is a service which you would want to use. We need to know that there is a market for this care before we make decisions as whether to proceed or not. Kids Club is a self-funding resource, which means that the income must cover the expenditure as we cannot use the school budget to support the club.

Please look out for the survey monkey (a text will be sent when it is live) and let us know what you think.

Extra-Curricular and Lunchtime Clubs

In readiness for September, we are looking to enhance and improve the range of clubs which we are offering for before/after school and at



lunchtimes. Staff are very restricted with what they can offer, as their primary focus is teaching and learning, planning and preparing lessons each day. Regardless of this, staff are very good at offering clubs when they can and giving children new opportunities when possible.

We would like to ask your children what sort of clubs they may like to see at school – there will be another survey monkey for this, so our children can contribute even though they are out of school. We can't promise to have everything that is suggested (horse riding and skydiving will not be possible...) but we will consider all suggestions. This will help us put together a plan for the new school year.

Phase 2 of the Building Project 'Project Riseley!'

I am very pleased to say that we are on our way with the project to build part 2 of the 'new' school, which will then lead into the demolition of the 'old' school! Originally, we were due to see work start immediately after the end of the Summer Term.



This is now under review because of COVID-19 and the uncertainty which we are all living in.

When we have some clear direction, dates and a plan, we will communicate this with you to make sure you all know how this will be managed and how we will make sure the school continues to run in the usual way.



This is a very exciting time for Riseley, we have lots of wonderful ideas to develop and lots of planning for a positive future.

Thank you all for your support, I am thoroughly enjoying contributing to the school and being able to positively shape the future for the children of Riseley C of E Primary School.

Mrs Morrall