

Ramsgate Arts Primary School

Mrs M Lewis – Executive Headteacher
 Mr N Budge - Head of School
 Web: ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk
 Facebook: @ramsgateartsprimaryschool
 Twitter: @ramsgateartsp



140-144 Newington Road
 Ramsgate
 Kent
 CT12 6PT
 Tel: 01843 582847

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. As you are all aware, RAPS is currently open for our Key Worker and vulnerable children (both groups are now up to our full capacity) and Year 1 and Year 6 are back. At present, we have 50% of the children attending part-time and everything seems to be going very smoothly; the children are happy in their ‘bubbles’ of no more than 15, and we have just enough staff to make this all workable. Next week we welcome back our Reception children, who again will be back in a part-time capacity.

I have included the timetable for transition in case you missed it in my previous letters.

Year Group	Team	Week Beginning 1/6	Week Beginning 8/6	Week Beginning 15/6	Week Beginning 22/6	Week Beginning 29/6	Week Beginning 6/7	Week Beginning 13/7	Week Beginning 20/7
EYFS/KS1 Key Worker Children	Red Team	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00
KS2 Key Worker Children	Yellow Team	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00	8.00-4.00
Reception in groups of no more than 15	Blue Team Green Team Pink Team-			8.30-11.00 or 1.00-3.30	8.30-11.00 or 1.00-3.30	8.30-11.00 or 1.00-3.30	8.30-11.00 or 1.00-3.30	8.30-11.00 or 1.00-3.30	
Yr1 –In groups of no more than 15 children	Purple Team Orange Team Lilac Team	Starting 3/6 3 groups 9.00-12.00	3 groups 9.00-12.00	3 groups 9.00-12.00	3 groups 9.00-2.00	3 groups 9.00-2.00	3 groups 9.00-2.00	3 groups 9.00-2.00	
Year 6	Purple Team		8.45-11.45	8.45-11.45	8.45-11.45	8.45-2.15	8.45-2.15	8.45-2.15	

There were no surprises when Gavin Williamson, the Secretary for Education, announced earlier this week that there will not be a full reopening of schools for the remainder of this academic year.

Understandably, parents will be divided. Some will be pleased with the decision as they had no intention of sending their children back before the summer anyway. Others will be fretful that there is no release to the boiling pot of pressures within the home and may feel that home-learning is taking its toll. Then there will be some parents who are coping fine enough, but are dreadfully concerned about the impact

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this extended absence from school may have on their child’s emotional, social and academic development. In addition to this, there is the pressure some parents may be under to return to work.

For all year groups, we will continue to set the daily blogs, where there will be an English, Maths and other activity. The teachers continue to work hard to ensure that the activities are as accessible as possible, however, we are mindful that this is in no way replicating normal school life. It is impossible to do so given the current situation and we do not expect you to battle with your children over completing everything. As I have said before, please do not stress over trying to achieve the award for being the parent who has got their children to do everything, instead use our work as a guide and try and get the children to do what you can. Please can you continue to share with us on Padlet and e-mail.

Sadly, RAPS has not got the staffing capacity for Years 2, 3, 4, and 5 to return to school in groups of 15, as all our teachers and TAs are now either taking groups or are shielding however, we do feel it is important for these children to be given the opportunity to return to school as a part of the transition process. To do this, the school term will have to finish slightly sooner for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

I am proposing that the final day of term for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children will be Friday 17th July. This will allow us to safely accommodate Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 to visit school over the final three days of term for socially-distanced picnics. These picnics will be held on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of July and will give the children the opportunity to say goodbye to their current class teacher and meet their new one. The picnic timetable can be seen below.*

Day	Monday 20 th July	Tuesday 21 st July	Wednesday 22 nd July
Year Group	Year 3 Picnic Group 1 11.00-12.00 Group 2 12.30-1.30	Year 2 Picnic Group 1 11.00-12.00 Group 2 12.30-1.30	Year 5 Picnic Group 1 11.00-12.00 Group 2 12.30-1.30 Year 4 Picnic Group 1 11.15-12.15 Group 2 12.45-1.45

*More details will be sent by the class teacher towards the end of this month regarding the children’s groupings

Transition:

As you can imagine, because of the current circumstances, transition will be very different this year, each Year group usually gets to spend a day with their new teachers and our younger children would have been able to spend several days in their new environment getting used to the new routines. We understand that parents and children will be particularly anxious this year. We have thought hard about how best to transition the children in these very different circumstances. Below is the outline of our plan:

- Week beginning 26th June – Children with SEN will have transition meetings with Mrs Hughes and their new class teacher on-line via Teams.
- Week ending 6th July - Parents will be sent the information about which teachers will be in which year groups and the children will be sent a welcome video from their new class teacher.
- Friday 17th July – Reception and Year 1 children in school will have an opportunity to meet their new class teacher in small groups, socially distanced.
- Thursday 16th Year 6 Celebration – more details to follow next week.
- Week Beginning 20th July - Transition Picnics for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

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- A new class blog page will be set up with a new Padlet, this will be a platform for the children to ask any questions or share any concerns they may have. It will also be an area to post any home-learning the new class teacher has set.
- Regarding the children's return in September - we are currently waiting for Government and Union advice, but the curriculum will be adjusted to meet the needs of the children returning.

Please remember that the RAPS team will always endeavour to stay as connected as we can with our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and I thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Budge". A mouse cursor is visible at the top left of the signature.

Nick Budge

Head of School

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