

Dear Families,

We're really looking forward to welcoming back our pupils for the new term.

I know there has been much debate in the media about young people's return to school, and you and your child may be feeling anxious. We are living through a challenging and ever-changing period but I want to reassure you that we have been working hard over the summer to prepare The Rise for the safe return of our pupils. We were so impressed with how pupils phased back or re-joined us for their 'reconnect' sessions in the summer term so we know that 'Settle September' will be brilliant.

**Please take 30 seconds to fill in this [5 question survey](#) to help us finalise our return plans.**

At the end of term, we shared an overview of our approach for September. You can re-read the letter [here](#) and watch the relevant part of the assembly [here](#) (watch from 10 minutes).

We continue to follow the advice of Government and other key bodies to keep The Rise community 'Covid-secure.' I have prepared an explainer video that goes into more detail about what to expect at The Rise next week. You can watch it [here](#) and there is a summary on the next page. The video talks to the pupils so it will help them and their transition back to school if they can watch it.

You can read our extensive risk assessment [here](#).

Just a quick reminder of the returning days:

Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Last day of the summer holidays
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET Day – school closed to all pupils, as planned
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET DAY – school closed to all pupils, as planned
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>*6Ash, 6Whitebeam, 7Teak, 7Kapok, 8Juniper, 8Larch classes ONLY</b> <b>*Other pupils are at home.</b>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>*5Bay, 9Elm, 9Maple, 10Dragon, 10Cypress, 11Pear, 11Sorrel ONLY</b> <b>*Other pupils are at home</b>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	All pupils return as normal (unless an individualised phased return agreed) Arrival between 8.20-8.50 Collection between 2.45-3.15  *There will be clear markings as places to wait, if there are no spaces free then please wait in your car.



## **Our position statement**

When we make decisions our number one priority is the health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff. We have set out our approach in detail in the [position statement](#) which is on our website. This statement also includes information about the robust plans we have put in place to respond to a potential case of COVID-19 within our setting.

We ask for your support in ensuring the safety of our school community by notifying us immediately should your child or young person develop Coronavirus symptoms. Any young person who is symptomatic must isolate for the required period of time. If your child is well enough to learn at home we will work out a plan with you around online learning or home packs.

Ahead of the start of term, we also ask parents to note the [Government's travel guidance](#) on potential quarantine requirements for entering other countries and returning to the UK which is changing frequently. Your child or young person will not be able to attend school during a quarantine period.

## **Going forward**

The Coronavirus pandemic is unpredictable and we know that official guidance may change. As we have done from the start of the pandemic, we will continue to review all guidance as soon as it is updated, respond rapidly and communicate clearly with you, should we need to change the way we deliver learning in our school/college.

Please know that the best interests of your child will always be at the centre of the decisions we make.

It's been a difficult year, a year in which our world has been turned upside down, but we're really looking forward to seeing our Rise pupils again and helping them reach their potential in a safe and secure environment.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Best wishes,

Helen Ralston

Head of The Rise School

## The Rise Educational Approach during COVID-19: September 2020

Please note, the below approach to education at The Rise in September 2020 is in line with [government guidance published on 2<sup>nd</sup> July](#) and the [updated Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust position statement](#) which can be read on our [corona webpage](#).

### Protective Measures

- Pupils and staff will be 1-2m apart whenever possible.
- Pupils and staff must continue to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.
- The Rise will continue to use an enhanced cleaning regime.
- The Rise will engage with track and trace – staff and pupils staying at home if requested.

### Arrival

- There will be no breakfast club during the Autumn term.
- Pupils can arrive between 8.20 and 8.50am.
- There will be three different entrances and your child will be allocated to one – see below.
- There will be clear markings as places to wait, if there are no spaces free then please wait in your car.
- Pupils **must wash their hands** (in addition to sanitiser) immediately on arrival.
- They will hand in their mobile phone to a box at their entrance and it will be taken to reception for safe keeping.

### During the Day

- Pupils will follow their new 20-21 timetable.
- Pupils will stay in their form room for all lessons (except PE, yoga and some science practical lessons) with the teachers transitioning around the building to teach them.
- Each classroom will be set up to maximise social distancing for pupils and staff.
- Pupils will do Food Tech every fortnight so that the groups are smaller.
- There will be no swimming at the start of term, we will advise you when it will resume.
- The normal SWPBS behaviour system will be used: tick chart, question marks, behaviour ladder, 1:1 time and reflections where needed.

### Break Times

- The hot menu that will be offered has been confirmed and can be viewed [here](#).
- We have split the school into 2 'sittings' to ensure there is more space in the dining hall and playground:

Sitting 1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6Whitebeam</li> <li>• 6Ash</li> <li>• 7Kapok</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7Teak</li> <li>• 8Juniper</li> <li>• 8Larch</li> </ul>
AM	10.20 – 10.30	Playground
	10.35 – 10.45	Reward in classroom
	10.50 - 11	Comfy Reading
PM	12.20 – 12.30	Rewards in classroom
	12.30 – 12.50	Dinner Hall
	12.55 – 1.15	Playground

Sitting 2		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5Bay</li> <li>• 9Elm</li> <li>• 9Maple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10Cypress</li> <li>• 10Dragon</li> <li>• 11Sorrel</li> <li>• 11Pear</li> </ul>
AM	10.20-10.30	Rewards in classroom
	10.35 – 10.45	Playground
	10.50 – 11	Comfy Reading
PM	12.20 – 12.30	Rewards in classroom
	12.30 - 12.50	Playground
	12.55 - 1.15	Dinner Hall

### **Leaving**

- Pupils will leave between 2.45 and 3.15pm by the same entrance.
- There will be clear markings as places to wait, if there are no spaces free then please wait in your car.
- Please note that in order to support social distancing and reduce congestion at the end of the day, staff will not be doing handover conversations. They will happily chat to you on the phone in addition to our weekly emails.
- There are no afterschool clubs for the Autumn term, this will be reviewed for January 2021.

### **Uniform**

- The expectation is that pupils will wear their uniform in September. However, as cleanliness continues to be of paramount importance, we are happy for pupils to wear a plain white or navy top (ie. t-shirt, polo shirt or collared shirt) to enable these to be purchased affordably and changed daily. The expectations around grey trousers/skirts and plain black shoes (including trainers) remain the same.

### **VLE**

- We will not routinely be using the VLE as we will resume delivering lessons in person.
- Nevertheless, if we are required to respond to a local lockdown, bubble closure or a pupil needing to shield or isolate (track and trace) then we will deliver lessons remotely once again.

### **Entrances and Exits for Transport and Families**

Your child will be allocated one of these gates and will use to enter/exit every day – *we are emailing this separately.*

1. The black gates that go immediately into the primary playground
2. The black gates that go into the secondary playground by the trim trail
3. The black gates that go into the secondary playground by the kitchen door/sports pitch

### **See the diagram below.**

No pupils will come through reception – it is too small and narrow.

Instead, they will:

1. Wash their hands on arrival – we have portable sinks
2. Enter via their gate
3. Make their way to their own playground

Please note:

- Please supervise your child to the entrance – the carpark can get very busy!
- This may require parking up and walking down to gate 1, 2 or 3.
- When collecting your child, or if it's busy when dropping off, please wait in your car until you can see that there is a spot free.

- Please remember that staff are not doing verbal handovers at this time.
- When you're on a spot, we will radio for your child/group of children
- There is a 30-minute window, if families and taxis spread out it will make things easier.
- Please be patient, we know that this might take a few days to get used to!

