



2nd September 2020

Full School Opening 7th September 2020

Dear Rainbow Parents/Carers

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for the tremendous support our school has received from you over the last few months. It has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone. The kindness and care for our community that has been shown in so many ways has been very inspiring.

As a Trust we have really enjoyed hearing about the learning that has taken place at home and receiving photos of the drawings and writing from the children. We have been open to some groups of students since the Government announced lock down in March. In June we were pleased to be able to welcome further students back to school following Government advice.

We approached this with great caution, reviewing all the scientific advice, to ensure that we could be as safe as possible. This has gone extremely well, as our safety measures and risk assessments were excellent and our staff, our parents and our students have worked in partnership to keep school safe.

Thank you to all those parents who sent their children back to Rainbow as requested – it has been lovely to see them. I would also like to thank you for your patience in waiting for our response to the Department of Education's guidance for schools which was released on 2nd July and then updated again on the 21st August, for the return to school in September.

You can be assured that our school leaders and the Trust have been working very hard to plan for the full opening of the school. You can read the full Government guidance here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-andcarers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumnterm>.

I want to reiterate that , Health & Safety will remain our paramount concern – we will not put your child or a member of staff at unnecessary risk. We have updated our Operational Risk Assessments and these can be made available to you on request.

We will be sharing further details as we progress through the full school re-opening, but in the meantime, there are some key reminders that you need to be aware of when thinking about and talking to your child about their return. By agreeing common principles and expectations, together we can all help our school stay as safe as possible as we open our doors to all pupils and students.

KEY REMINDERS

1. COVID-19 symptoms

You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child must NOT attend school. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms during the school day will be sent home immediately. You must follow the Government guidance 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' If anyone in your household is displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive, you MUST inform your school.

2. Attendance at school.

The government relaxed the rules on attendance during lockdown this will change in September and attendance will become mandatory again. The Government guidance says: 'Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school, and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.'

3. Clinically vulnerable category

If your child falls into an extremely clinically vulnerable category or remains under the care of a specialist health care professional, you should discuss their care before returning to school in September and talk to the school about the situation. Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, they will not be penalised.

4. School Lunches

School kitchens will re-open in September, and lunches will be available again. Pupils eligible for free school meals will return to having their lunch at school and will no longer receive lunch vouchers. This is in line with the Government scheme and what is being provided nationally for all students.

5. School Uniform

All pupils at Rainbow will be expected to wear the full school uniform from September as per our policy. The guidance states that this does not need washing more frequently or any differently to how you would have done prior to the Covid 19 pandemic.

In order to avoid changing of clothes in school, children will be asked to come to school in PE kits on their respective PE days.

At the end of each school day, children will have to wait in their designated spaces out doors in the play area. Therefore please make sure children have appropriate weather proof clothing like a rain coat, cap and gloves.

We are aware that a number of false claims are currently being made on social media (especially Facebook) about what schools will and won't be doing in September. You should be careful about where these stories come from and the motives behind them. If you have any concerns whatsoever about your child's return please make contact with the school at your earliest convenience.

In the mean-time I can assure you we won't be secretly vaccinating your children or placing them into the care of the local authority if they display Covid-19 symptoms.

The current situation has lasted for a long time and the 'new normal' will need to continue for as long as is necessary. Our policy and practice may need to change to reflect the latest guidance, we may need to adapt to meet local circumstances and we may once again see further lock downs and home learning. I can assure you that whatever happens we will take a sensible and considered approach to the situation as we have done previously.

Further information about the full re opening of the school is also available on the School website.

Rainbow School Leadership

In order to maintain stability and provide continuity the Trust has asked Dame Naila Zaffar to continue in her post as a consultant Executive head . Mrs Javed has been appointed as Acting Head of Shool for the next academic year, she will be supported by a team of senior leaders including Mrs Ward, Miss Mills, Miss Newton, Miss Naz, Ms Waugh and School Business Manger Mrs. Maxine Muff.

Please be assured that we have tried to put everything in place to ensure that our school is as safe as it can be for the full re-opening on 7th September. If you would like further information or wish to see our latest Risk Assessment, please contact the school office via email info@rainbowschools.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Arshad Javed

Chief Executive Officer