

NEWSLETTER 30

22nd May 2020

Rode Early Bird and Stay and Play Team
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OFSTED Registration: EY489041

EXTENDING SCHOOL OPENING UPDATE

On the 28th May we will be informed by the Government if, as a Country, we have met the five tests which will enable us to begin welcoming children from Gruffalo Class and Elmer Class back into school alongside the children of key workers and vulnerable children. We are excited at the thought of seeing more children but also very anxious for their safety and that of our staff. Since our last newsletter our Federation Senior Leadership Team have been working extremely hard to ensure that when children and staff return to school in increasing numbers the risk of the spread of the Coronavirus is mitigated as far as it possibly can be. Our plan is now largely in place but the next step is to find out from you whether your children will be returning to school, as ultimately that decision is yours. In order to give you the full picture, so that you can make an informed decision, I have decided to share with you our complete **Covid-19 Social Distancing Risk Assessment** which sets out all the strategies we will be putting into place before your children return. [Here is the link.](#)

From the information we receive from you we will be able to draw up our final detailed plans which will be published during the week of 1st June. Until then here is a brief overview of our planning to date to guide your thinking. Please be aware that this plan may change either due to the 5 Key Tests not being met on 28th May, numbers of children opting to return exceeding safety levels or our sites not being ready and compliant with our Risk Assessment.

Gruffalo & Elmer Classes

We will be using the week of the **1st June** to ensure our site at Norton St Philip is as safe as possible for your children to return and to carry out essential staff training. Children of key workers and vulnerable children will be able to access care provision at Rode all week as usual.

From **8th June** we are planning for a partial and part-time opening of Gruffalo and Elmer classes on our Norton St Philip site every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. For the weeks of **8th June** and **15th June** we will arrange a part-time timetable for your children and if we are able to increase our offer after that we of course will let you know.

Please be aware that the learning experience will be very different for children on their return. Children will be taught in their own learning bubbles of less than 12 children with no interaction at any time, including lunchtimes and playtimes, with children or adults from other learning bubbles. Classrooms may also appear quite different, more spartan with fewer available resources and toys. However teaching by our wonderful, dedicated and fun-loving staff will be based around our theme River Deep Mountain High with an emphasis on outdoor learning and transitioning the children smoothly and happily back to school.

For Gruffalo and Elmer Class children school will be closed every Wednesday for deep cleaning and to give teachers the Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time they need. Children of key workers and vulnerable children will be able to access care provision at Rode every Wednesday as normal. However I would make a plea to parents to endeavour to arrange working schedules so that this provision on a Wednesday is only required in an emergency.

Key workers and vulnerable children in Paddington, Wild Things and BFG Classes.

During the week of **1st June** our care provision will continue as normal and I will be emailing you all later today to ask for your requirements for the week of 1st June-5th June. From **8th June** this provision will change from a solely 'care' provision to mirroring our Home learning activities for Years 2, 3 and 4 and children will be taught in their Paddington, Wild Things or BFG Learning Bubble every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. Please be aware that the learning experience will be very different to the learning your children experienced before 'lock down'. Children will be taught in their own learning bubbles of less than 15 children with no interaction at any time, including lunchtimes and playtimes, with children or adults from other learning bubbles. Classrooms may also appear quite different, more spartan with fewer available resources. However teaching by our wonderful, dedicated and fun-loving staff will be based around our theme River Deep Mountain High with an emphasis on outdoor learning and transitioning the children smoothly and happily back to school.

Children of key workers and vulnerable children will be able to access **care provision** at Rode every Wednesday as normal. However I would make a plea to parents to endeavour to arrange working schedules so that this provision on a Wednesday is only required in an emergency.

For our Y2s, Y3s & Y4s Home-Learners.

We really miss you all, but until we are able to welcome you back to school your teachers will continue to provide exciting home learning activities which will be mirrored and taught at school. The teachers will from **8th June** be juggling home learning at the same time as teaching and although they are highly talented, we will need to reset your expectations of feedback via email communications and phone calls. Details of any changes will follow during the week of **1st June**.

Transition Week for Y4

We also haven't forgotten about a possible Transition Week for our Y4s at the end of term but unfortunately, we have not been able to make any progress on this yet. However when we have some news we will be in touch.

SO WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED FROM YOU?

If you are a parent and carers of a child in Gruffalo Class

Once you have read the Risk Assessment and considered what we are putting into place to mitigate the risks of transmission of Coronavirus please email Mrs Muxworthy on gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk the following:-

1. Do you agree to your child returning at all given the current situation?
 1. If you answer yes to this question please answer Questions 2 &3.

2. If your answer is no there will be no penalty of non-attendance this term.
2. Would you prefer your child to attend on a Monday & Tuesday or Thursday & Friday from 8th June-27th June?
3. If we were able to offer every day except Wednesday which days would you bring your child to school?

If you are a parent and carers of a child in Elmer Class

Once you have read the Risk Assessment and considered what we are putting into place to mitigate the risks of transmission of Coronavirus please inform Mrs Philips on vphilips@educ.somerset.gov.uk the following:-

1. Do you agree to your child returning at all given the current situation?
 1. If you answer yes to this question please also answer Questions 2 & 3.
 2. If your answer is no there will be no penalty of non-attendance this term.
2. If we were able to offer every day except Wednesday which days would you bring your child to school?

Please note that Mrs Philips would rather children attended every day (except Wed) rather than dipping in and out, to ensure continuity of learning.

If you are a Key Worker or on our Vulnerable list.

I will email you as normal later today about your requirements. If you are a key worker but have not yet accessed our care for your child please email me **before Wednesday 27th May** on ctommey@educ.somerset.gov.uk so that I can add you to this circulation list.

Many thanks,
Carolyn Tommey

READING BOOKS

We are aware that some parents are keen to change reading books as children are moving up the colour bands, which is great news!

We have to follow strict guidelines for this so apologies that it will not be a quick process.

On **Monday June 1st between 9am and 3pm**, parents can come to school and drop their books, in a **named carrier bag** with a note inside saying what they need next in terms of colour band/quantity.

We will put several boxes out in the front entrance courtyard at Rode and just inside the playground at NSP, with the gate propped open. You **must** return your books to the correct site they came from, so for some parents you will need to drop at both sites. Apologies for the inconvenience but we have very different sets of books in each classroom.

As the Covid virus apparently lives on surfaces for several days we will 'quarantine' the books for several days and staff will then make up new packs on Friday, wearing gloves. The bags will then be available for collecting from the following Monday and will be left outside

in the boxes again. To be super safe parents could then quarantine the books for 3 days at home.

This will be the only opportunity to exchange books for several weeks as when school opens book bags and reading books will not be allowed to be sent into school.

What a palaver! But it's worth it to keep those reading skills sharp.

Many thanks, Mrs Muxworthy

PE LESSONS FROM IG SPORTS COACHING

Ian Groves is producing PE lessons that you can access from home. They are completely free of charge and are available on his YouTube channel or Facebook page both under 'IG Sports Coaching'. Live PE lesson every Wednesday alternating between 11:00am & 2pm sessions.

Here are Ian's contact details for your information:

Ian Groves

Director

FLP Sports Co-ordinator

IG Sports Coaching Ltd

07855 533141

ian@igsportscoaching.co.uk

www.igsportscoaching.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a safeguarding concern during this period of closure please contact one of our Safeguarding Team:

Mrs Muxworthy gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk,

Mrs Slade kslade@educ.somerset.gov.uk or

Mrs Tommey ctommey@educ.somerset.gov.uk.

Or telephone the school office at Rode on 01373 830523.