



Spring 2 Newsletter

Newsletter

16/01/2021

Rednal Hill Junior School www.rednalhilljuniors.com

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Introduction

Dear families...

I hope this 2nd newsletter of 2021 finds you all safe and well.

It's been an extremely busy, and at times testing, couple of weeks as we all grapple with the huge changes to routine and life. Adapting to change is difficult at the best of times but these are not 'the

best of times' and we appreciate how difficult many of you (we) are finding the current situation. I'd like to echo the words I said last week and thank all of you for your words of kindness, support and advice. It's only by talking and working together that we'll find a way through this.

Home Learning Provision Update



Home-Learning Questionnaire Findings Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank all of the parents that took the time to complete the questionnaire form that was sent out at the end of last week to gather views and opinions based on the current home-learning provision. We have looked closely at the data and we are pleased to see that there have been so many comments of positivity and support - all of which have lifted our spirits and given us the drive to continue to aim to provide the best possible provision for all of the children at Rednal Hill. Thank you also for the comments and ideas that you have provided based on how we might further develop the offer - these contributions are highly valued and they have given us many ideas for improvement. Many thanks also for your continued patience going forward, as we further develop and refine our home-learning offer. We are aware that some of you have experienced issues and we are working to remedy these concerns as quickly as possible given the circumstances. The staff have taken on board the feedback that we have received and are working collaboratively to make adjustments. As you can appreciate, this is an exceptionally steep learning curve for all of us providing teaching and learning in this new way across the whole school, and we would like to encourage your patience while we identify and overcome problems.

Home Learning NOT Home Schooling

We know that lots of you will be feeling stressed and under pressure by all that's happening. We understand that juggling home school learning with working from home is extremely hard, and also it is very challenging for parents supporting more than one child at home and/or children with

additional needs. Remember this is home learning, not home schooling. Our advice is 'balance is everything', we know attendance to learning is not optional but don't be hard on yourselves if some elements are missed because of work/life commitments. It is essential, more now than ever, that you look after your own and your family's mental health, as stress and anxiety will only work against all our good intentions for your child's home-learning experience. Remember, we know you are all doing your very best at this time, however please do take advantage of the support on offer from school - from the Pastoral and Inclusion staff, and of course the Home-Learning teams. We want the very best for your child's wellbeing and continued learning at this time and will endeavour to support you in finding solutions to any issues and concerns as and when they arise within reasonable timescales. In the meantime, we will work tirelessly to develop our home learning approach, and we ask that you keep working with us, in partnership, to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children.

Home Learning Issues?

- Remember to **add @rednalhilljuniors.com after your username** when logging into **Teams** e.g. **20BSmith@rednalhilljuniors.com**
- Children **do not** have to have cameras on
- No device/internet connectivity please contact the office on:
 - School: 0121 453 2520 or
 - mobile: 07958485137
- Please respond to school calls, we really want to try and help.
- Having problems with Teams? [CLICK HERE](#)

Spring 2021 Parent/Carer Telephone/Teams Consultations for Pupils with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)



Telephone Consultations We plan to consult with all parents/carers of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) by telephone over the coming weeks. We recognise that many of these pupils will be having greater difficulties accessing our home-learning offer and will also be requiring a higher level of support from parents/carers to do so. Mrs Jones has planned for telephone consultations to be carried out over the next 2-3 weeks, and some parents/carers will have already received an invitation by teachers2parents e-mail/text with a link to book a session for this coming week. If you haven't had yours yet, please look to expect an invite during week commencing (w/c) 25th January if your child is at home, or w/c 1st February if your child is in school.

SEND Provision for pupils at home Provision for pupils at home this term will be quite different to how we usually provide support and intervention within school, but we hope that by discussing home-learning difficulties with parents, and considering your child's individual needs we can come up with a plan together. Please be aware there are limitations to what we can offer at this time, and each individual child's plan for provision will look different depending on their level of need, but we will definitely be trying to help all as much as is reasonably possible to ensure that your child continues to learn and feel successful.

SEND Provision for pupils in school Provision for pupils in school will also be slightly different this term, because of limitations with staffing caused by needing to provide both education in school and at home. Phone consultation invites for these pupils are likely to be sent out during week commencing 1st February. In the meantime if you have any concerns, please contact Mrs Jones, our Inclusion Leader on: j.jones@rednalhilljuniors.com

Reminders for Parents of Children Attending School



Can we please remind all parents of children currently attending school of some key messages:

- Do not bring your child to school or on to the school premises if they are ill or if you believe that they have been exposed to someone that has Covid 19. Please be aware, the symptoms for COVID 19 in children are wide ranging and do not always follow the usual guidance
- Please ensure that you are keeping a 2metre distance from other parents and children on the playground at all times
- The wearing of face coverings for parents is encouraged whilst on the school site (although not mandatory)
- School uniform will not be required but we request that you send them in clothes that are suitable for both outdoor activities and physical education
- Please support the school and remind children of the need for:
 - Regular handwashing/sanitising
 - If they sneeze, 'catch it in your elbow'. If a tissue is used, 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.

Please do read the new and revised '[Lockdown 3 - Parent Guidance](#)' for more information on the organisation of the school day.

Cancellation of Key Events



As you can appreciate, during this difficult time, the running and organising of some of the key events on the school calendar is impossible. The following events have been cancelled:

- 4EO's class assembly
- 5TH's class assembly
- January parent consultations

Difficult Times During Lockdown?



We've all been through a tough time with Covid-19 and repeated lockdowns. For many families it can get harder over Winter, which is why we're here to help. Here are some of our partners' most used services and support, which might make life a little bit easier...

- 1. Online parenting course.** We've pre-paid for every parent in Birmingham to access a [parenting course](#). Just enter the access code "COMMUNITY" at the top of the page to claim. There are courses for parents, carers and grandparents of children from bump to 19. Learn about how your child develops, and get tips to manage their behaviour.
- 2. Mental health support.** In these difficult times we have to look after our mental health. For young people aged 11-25 there are forums, guides and counselling available at [Kooth](#). If your child 0-25 needs support, get in touch with Pause by calling 0207 841 4470 or **email**. Adults can get support from [MIND](#) by calling 0121 262 3555. Or for urgent help call [Forward Thinking Birmingham](#) on 0300 300 0099.
- 3. Financial help.** If you've lost your job, or are struggling for food or rent there are services that can help. [Local welfare provision](#) can make a big difference if you are in a crisis and need food, fuel or basic white goods. [Discretionary Housing Payments](#) may be able to help with rent. And there are [food banks](#) across Birmingham that are here to help.
- 4. Domestic abuse.** For women and children affected by domestic abuse please see [guidance](#) or confidentially contact [Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid](#). For Men, please contact [Respect](#).
- 5. Problems with drugs or alcohol.** A new, discrete app called Staying Free is available on Android or Apple. Use the code "birmingham11" for pre-paid access. To speak to someone call [Change Grow Live](#).
- 6. Bereavement support.** It's a terrible time to lose a loved one — you can get help by calling 0121 687 8010 or from [Cruse](#).

7. Early help for families. If anyone in your family needs more help, from public services or community groups, then please contact our [voluntary sector local leads](#). We have ten areas which can connect you to support across the city.

If you are worried about a child, please call Birmingham's Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121 303 1888. In an emergency, including child abuse, contact the Police on 999. You can also [chat](#) to the Police.

School Office Closed to Visitors



For the time being to ensure the safety and welfare of staff, the office is closed to visitors. We want to communicate with parents as best as we can in this challenging time so can we please ask that the majority of your conversations with school staff are via telephone or e-mail to ensure safety.

There will be a member of staff on each playground every morning should you wish to speak to someone directly. If you use this channel of communication can you please ensure you recognise

social distancing protocols. Office e-mail: enquiry@rednalhilljuniors.com Office mobile: 07958485137

School contact details



If you would like to contact us please see details below:

Rednal Hill Junior School

Irwin Avenue

Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8QY

Tel: 0121 453 2520 Mobile: 07958485137

enquiry@rednalhilljuniors.com

Visit us on the web at www.rednalhilljuniors.com.