

The Rowans AP Academy
Silverbank
Churchill Avenue
Chatham
ME5 0LB

Tel: 01634 338803

Email: office@therowansap.co.uk

Website: www.therowans.org

Kindness

Commitment

Resilience

To all Parents/Carers of all Rowans' pupils

24th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we prepare for **full school return** in September, I wanted to reassure you that I recognise you have all had different experiences of lockdown and the pandemic. I understand that you may have some worries or concerns, so I felt it important that I write to explain some of the key changes, enabling you to explain them to your child and support their return to school.

Firstly, it is **compulsory that all pupils return to school on a full-time basis from Thursday 3rd September**. The usual attendance processes will begin immediately with action taken for any pupils who do not attend or who are late to school.

School will be following government guidance in terms of social distancing and hygiene routines in the following ways:

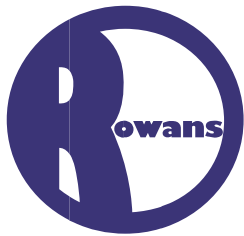
In and around school

- All pupils will be expected to wash their hands on arrival to school and at regular points throughout the day.
- Hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes will be available for use in every classroom.
- Corridors in both buildings will be separated centrally with one-way arrows pointing to direction of travel.
- All pupils will be forward facing in classrooms and where this is not possible in food, IT and DT, there will be temporary screens provided.
- Each classroom will have a taped zone indicating social space for the teacher and or the teaching assistant. Pupils will not be permitted in this space. Should a pupil deliberately enter this zone, they will lose both respect points on their day sheet.
- Break and lunch times will be staggered to reduce pressure on social spaces and to keep KS3 and KS4 apart.
- Breakfast club and break time snacks will be served from the servery in the hall, organised and served by Mrs Skinner and Mrs Jones.
- KS3 will go to break and lunch 10 minutes earlier than KS4, to avoid congestion around key parts of the school.
- KS3 will have designated areas for break and lunch, these are KK and SB classrooms in the Elms and the front field.
- KS4 will have designated areas for break and lunch, these are The Rowans building, the playground and the sensory garden. KS4 will be told that being in the sensory garden is a privilege that will be removed if the garden is not treated with respect, this includes the importance of not leaving any rubbish in the garden.
- The hall will be taped with designated areas for KS3 and KS4 to sit for lunch.

The Inspiring Change Multi-Academy Trust

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- There will be increased cleaning of the school throughout the day.

Travel and transport

- For any off-site lessons or activities where pupils travel in school vehicles, such as PE lessons, pupils and staff will be expected to wear face masks, mirroring public transport expectations.
- Parents will be asked when dropping off and collecting pupils, that they remain in their vehicles.
- The minibus will still operate at the end of each day for pupils, who have made the daily points on their day sheets to be dropped at various locations around Medway. All pupils and staff travelling in the minibus will be expected to wear a face mask and this can be provided by The Rowans AP Academy. If pupils fail to wear a face mask or take off their face mask whilst travelling, they will not be permitted to travel in the minibus on the following day.

To remind pupils of the importance of these measures, staff will use this phrase;

"Clean hands, safe space."

I am excited to welcome back pupils in September, where we can, once again, support academic and personal progress, helping each child to reach their potential.

It is important that if your child has Coronavirus symptoms, they should NOT attend school. You should follow the **NHS test and trace process**:

All children can be tested including those under the age of 5. Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) must get a test. Tests can be booked at the drive through Medway test centre locally using the link [here](#) or online through the [NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#).

Tests can also be ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. **We ask that you inform the school immediately of the test result whether negative or positive.**

Those who test positive must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. **Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs F May
Headteacher