

# Rokesly Infant and Nursery School

Hermiston Avenue, London N8 8NH

Tel: 020 8340 7687

Email: [admin@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk)

Website: [www.rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk](http://www.rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk)

Head teacher: Grant Bright



At Rokesly...

**Our community is warm and welcoming**

**Learning is fun and fascinating**

**We celebrate the things that make us special**

**We challenge ourselves to go further**

## ♥ We are in this together – even when we are all apart ♥

Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all well and have managed to find some routine with home learning while juggling your other responsibilities. As we begin week 5, many of you will feel that the blurring of borders between home, work and school has become the “new normal.” Needless to say, we would far rather have the children in school and the chance to see you all at the school gates, but until things change the guidance remains: stay at home if you can.

We have really appreciated your many positive comments and kind thoughts over the past few weeks. We are especially thankful for your kind words and support for our staff members who have been ill with covid-19 and those who have sadly lost loved ones to the illness.

We are currently balancing lots of different demands on our time and resources which might mean that we take a little longer to get back to you. Please bear with us, our staff are all working extremely hard either on site or managing your child’s remote learning.

### COMING BACK TO SCHOOL

On 27 January, the government confirmed that schools in England will not re-open after the February half-term holidays, with children likely to return to their classrooms on **Monday 8 March 2021** at the earliest. We will be working towards this date and preparing to welcome more children in to school. We have been told that we will receive two weeks’ notice of schools opening wider to more children and we will do our best to give you as much notice as possible, too.

### REMOTE LEARNING

We would like to send huge thanks to all parents who are at home supporting children with remote learning. We know this must be challenging, especially if you have siblings at home and are working from home yourself. We have been impressed with how the children are engaging and seeing their work has been so encouraging.

We made the decision to record our class teaching content rather than deliver whole class lessons live to give our families the greatest flexibility to manage their child’s remote learning. Recorded content enables you to pause and review, and also re-watch if you need to. It also fits in with availability of adult support, shared devices and other circumstances that make live participation impossible.

For younger children, spending a long time online is not appropriate. That is why we have made sure your child has work books, reading books and other resources to use.

We will continue to review all elements of our remote offer and have been grateful for the feedback we have received through emails to staff. We will continue to make changes we feel will have the greatest impact.

### IT SURVEY

Thanks to everyone who responded to our IT at home survey. If you haven’t yet, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PKBTFCW>. Over the past few weeks, we have managed to lend some of our families the devices they need to access home learning successfully.

This will continue to be an especially difficult time for parents who will have children at home. We will continue to do all we can to support you as you help your children with their remote learning.

### MANAGING EMOTIONS

We fully understand and appreciate how challenging this lockdown will be for many of you and want to reiterate the importance of prioritising good mental health and wellbeing for the children and yourselves at this time.

Every day will be different: some days will be great; the children will be enthusiastic; they will enjoy their home learning and have a real sense of achievement at the end of it. Other days will be more challenging. The children may be tired and not very focussed. They may find things more difficult and it can add to the stress in the house.

Dr Annika Clark, Consultant Clinical Psychologist for CAMHS has produced a really helpful video for parents and carers and offers advice around how to best to support children who may display heightened emotions during lockdown. She also offers strategies for parents to help understand and manage these emotions. This video is specifically produced for parents and carers and offers advice around how to best to support children who may display heightened emotions during lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtBlf4D2Aqs>

### **MANAGING EXPECTATIONS**

Although it is important that children do not miss out on learning, please try to make your expectations of each day manageable. If you know you have meetings or important things to do at home, plan your child's work around them. For infant children, 'little and often' is often a better approach than putting pressure on yourselves or your child. If they don't get all the work done on that day, that is fine. If you are having to prioritise, please focus on Maths and English - these are the basic skills they will always need across every subject. Physical and emotional well-being is important. Going for walks, bike or scooter rides, playing games, cooking, Lego, colouring in or painting can play an important part in helping their well-being.

We check everyone has logged on to Purple Mash during the week.

Staff will call you if your child has not logged on, just in case you need help.

### **CONTACTING YOUR TEACHER**

If you need support with learning, you can email your teacher on the class email:

[CLASSCOLOUR@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:CLASSCOLOUR@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk) – e.g. [Yellow@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:Yellow@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk)

The emails you receive from us sometimes have the office email as a return address – make sure you reply via the class email so your teacher gets your message.

Please alert your class teacher or the school office if you need assistance in anyway. We are here to help!

### **JOIN US ON ZOOM**

Our zoom 'Good Morning' sessions have offered all the children at home some valuable interaction with their teacher and classmates. The feedback has been universally positive. I have popped in to some sessions and have really enjoyed seeing the children sharing their news. Although we have all benefitted from the interactions in class zooms, we believe that large groups of young children working online together doesn't offer the individual interactions that are so important in teaching and learning!

### **LATERAL FLOW TESTS FOR SCHOOL STAFF**

You may have heard in the media that regular testing of primary school staff is starting to be offered. The Lateral Flow Tests arrived at school last week and staff in school have begun to test themselves twice weekly. This is optional for staff. The tests give results in 30 minutes and are designed to pick up on the 1 in 3 adults who are asymptomatic carriers of Covid-19.

### **REPORTING TESTS AND RESULTS**

Please continue to stay safe and well. If your child has Covid-19 symptoms, you must take them for a test and inform the school. If your child has a test, it is still important you **let us know** as soon as they get their result:

[covid-report@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:covid-report@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk)

If your child is in a school pod, it is more important than ever that they do not come in if they are ill. Even spreading a cold could mean reduced staffing that forces us to close our critical worker provision to all children.

**ROKESLY ART PAGE** <https://www.rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk/rokesly-art-page/> and **MARISA'S COOKERY CLUB**

We would like to be part of the **Great Big Art Exhibition**. This is a joint initiative with the Tate, Arts Council England and various other art providers. To do this, we need your amazing art!

We have added a new art challenge to the Rokesly art page for you to make yourself a ROCK PET.

Send your awesome artistic stone or pebble to Marisa [artclub@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:artclub@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk) (please title it **Art Exhibition**) and we will put it on the exhibition's Instagram site (with the hashtag # Great Big Art Exhibition) and on our school Instagram site. There are plenty of other art challenges on the Art Page, too.

You can also see Marisa's cookery videos on the home learning page if you fancy cooking up a tasty treat!

We are all looking forward to having you back in school soon. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you need support. The next few weeks will be difficult for everyone and if you need to talk to a member of staff or need other support, please email or call the office.

We are in this together - even when we are all apart.

Grant Bright  
Head teacher