

# Rokesly Infant and Nursery School

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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**

16th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I very much hope you are all safe and well.

Rokesly Infant and Nursery school is part of a group of schools who have been working closely together on planning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to share a message from the Head teachers of all the schools we are working with:

St Mary's CE Primary School, Coleridge Primary School, Campsbourne Primary School, Rokesly Infant and Nursery School, Rokesly Junior School, Stroud Green Primary School, St Aidan's VC Primary School, The Federation of St Peter's and St Gildas' Infant and Junior Schools and Weston Park Primary School.

*As a group of local schools, we have been working hard to realise our plans for the safe wider re-opening of our schools to key year groups as required by the government. On reflection, we are pleased that we collectively decided to delay the return of children to the 8<sup>th</sup> June, as it allowed us to prepare thoroughly.*

*We are continuing to work closely together and are meeting regularly to support one another and share ideas and good practice.*

*Each of our schools has the very best interests of its community at the forefront of its thinking when considering further opening for any other groups of pupils. The health, safety and wellbeing of the whole school community are our priority and we do not want to compromise these.*

*It is also important to note that each school has differing circumstances according to its own context. Whilst some schools are already working at full capacity with the year groups they have been able to take in - due to available staffing or issues with space - where others may be able to open more widely.*

*Thank you in advance for your continued support during this most challenging of times for us all.*

At Rokesly Infant and Nursery school, we are all looking forward to a time when more children can return to school and we can get back to normal.

We successfully welcomed Reception children back on 8<sup>th</sup> June, and Year 1 children will be joining us next week on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. In addition to these children, we are required to provide childcare for groups of key worker and vulnerable pupils (currently 25 children). For each pod of 15 children we have made sure that the group is taught in their own classroom environment with familiar key teaching, support and lunchtime staff wherever possible. This means that once Year 1 return, we will have reached capacity for the staff that we have available.

Because of the strict limit on group size (up to 15 children in a pod), the number of staff we have available and the physical space we have in school to accommodate groups, we are only able to offer 2 days a week to each child at the moment. We have organised our returning children into mutually exclusive pods in order to minimize the risk of cross-contamination between staff and pupils of different pods. Although a small number of parents have indicated in our surveys that their

child may not return before September, we anticipate an increasing number of pupils returning over the next few weeks. To accommodate this increase, we have to be strict about maintaining the pods as they have been organised, to keep numbers below 15 in line with government guidance so that children are not mixing with a larger group of children and adults until it is safe to do so.

In the final week of term, we have made the decision to welcome back our Year 2 children and some Nursery children (those that will be joining our Reception classes in September) for transition days. We think it is really important to have as many of these children in school as possible in order to prepare them for their next stage of learning.

In order to accommodate these additional children and maintain our Key worker childcare with our current staffing, we will need to close the Year 1 and Reception pods on 10th July 2020. While this is our ambition, we are aware that there may be unforeseen changes to guidance that may mean our plans change at short notice.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during what is a very challenging time for us all. It is very much appreciated.

Best wishes

Grant Bright  
Head teacher