

Updates

As most of you know, since the 'Lockdown' announcement on 20th March, all schools and families have been adapting to vastly different ways of working. RPS is now operating on two fronts. For the vast majority of our pupils, safety is best managed with them remaining at home. For a small number of pupils, government guidance dictates that schools should remain open. For the last four weeks, RPS staff have been working according to a rota to keep the school open for specific pupils; including during the Easter Break. This staff rota maximises opportunities for staff 'distancing', whilst fulfilling a 'front-line' role. As it stands, the 'lockdown' is to remain in place until further notice; and thus the school will continue to work in these two ways. Please rest assured that all parents will be kept up to date re RPS arrangements as things change at a national level.

School Projects

Pupils still attending school have been balancing core learning from their learning packs with opportunities for broader curriculum projects. We were very proud to put together this window rainbow – thus sending our best wishes and support to the Rusper community.



Governors

We hope that all Rusper families are remaining well and are managing to adapt during these difficult times. Our remit as governors has needless to say somewhat changed since the onset of COVID-19. Our usual day to day business has been put on hold and our focus is now how the school is managed during the pandemic and the partial closure of the school. Governors receive regular updates from Mr Avey which helps us to retain a strategic overview of the situation and the school. We will in due course be holding virtual meetings to carry out any necessary urgent decision making. We are really pleased to announce that we have two new co-opted governors. Emma Milnes, parent at Rusper, and with past experience in the education sector, joined us last term. In addition, Suzanna Lopez has just been voted in by governors. She lives in Surrey and has worked in education for fifteen years. Both Mrs Milnes and Mrs Lopez will be great additions to our governing body, and we would like to welcome them both.
RPS Governing Body

Home Learning

RPS staff extend a huge thank you to all our parents working so hard at home to support their children accessing learning. It has been great to see the work being uploaded; and to read the comments from children who have written messages. Naturally, we miss the children, and maintaining online interaction is really positive. As stated in a separate letter before the Easter break, it is our intention to improve our online learning offer. There will be more separate letters re online learning this week. Easter Break finishes on April 20th, and we aim to have improved approaches ready by then. Please watch out for school letters by email. Thank you.



Community Support

In response to the 'lockdown' N Rooney, our FORPS chair has set up a private 'RPS Families' Facebook group. The group is intended as a further support for parents. It is for sharing ideas, talking about what we are up to, asking questions & generally supporting each other to reduce potential feelings of isolation etc. It also acts as a platform for sharing new links to free ideas/resources each day. RPS would like to thank Mrs Rooney for this, and to the other parents that are contributing to the group. The membership has continued to grow since its set up.

Staffing

Prior to the 'lockdown' phase, the school announced the resignation of Mrs Hodgson from Pegasus. Mrs Hodgson is continuing her work with RPS until April 29th. We thank her for great work at our school, and wish her well for her future. We are pleased to announce that prior to the current situation, RPS was successful in recruiting a new teacher for the shared job role in Pegasus. From April 20th, we welcome Mrs Matthews to our staff team. Mrs Matthews has good experience working in several primary schools across West Sussex; and we are confident that she will make an excellent addition to our staff team. We hope that it won't be long before Pegasus parents are able to meet her.