



# Rendlesham Primary School

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Academy Head: Debbie Thomas



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## Happy New Year

I sincerely hope that you all had a lovely Christmas. I know that lots of families and staff experienced illness over the holidays but I hope that despite this you were able to enjoy family time.

It has been a very exciting start back and I have enjoyed seeing all the children both in assemblies and in class. The older children had a wonderful start to their curriculum work on Friday with a Victorian themed day. They experienced life as a Victorian child and fully immersed themselves in the roleplay. They were taught by this sombre crew, who tried their hardest to remain in character all day.



I know from the number of giggles, both from staff and children, that this was impossible. Whilst there were many areas of the historic era that the children liked some were just too a step too far!

Thank you to all parents and carers that supported the day with fantastic costumes and to the staff for making it so memorable for everyone involved.

## COVID Guidance

Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly we are now really seeing an impact of COVID in school. Until the week before Christmas we had done remarkably well at avoiding high numbers but we are now experiencing a rise in numbers in the community and therefore in school too.

We are following the new government guidance as you will have seen from the CEO's letter last week. We have a number of cases across the school and I am very grateful to parents for keeping us so well informed. If your child tests positive please let friends and family know if you believe them to have been in close contact. It is important that we use Lateral Flow Tests to check if we have been in close contact with a positive case.

The rules on self-isolation have changed. Children who have tested positive can now return to school on day 7\*, as long as:

- they have tested negative on an LFD test on day 6 and day 7; and
- the tests were at least 24 hours apart; and
- they do not have a high temperature.

Please note, as before, pupils should still return to school after the 10th day of their isolation period, as long as they feel well enough; they are not required to wait until they receive a negative LFD test result.

I know that there is a lot of confusion and we are constantly being asked what to do by parents. This is the latest guidance so please make sure you are very familiar with it.

We are, as you would expect, experiencing high levels of staff absence, for a wide range of reasons, not just Covid, so please be understanding of the difficulties staff face as things change daily at the moment. We are managing to cover everything internally and children are still receiving a normal education, but there are, and will inevitably be, some things that we can't do if we don't have enough adults on the day. Hopefully things will improve after this two week post-Christmas period.

## First Aid

We are experiencing a high level of accident reports at the moment. This has come about through the need to ensure that parents are well informed. However, things seem to have spiralled out of all sense of proportion and we are being flooded with medical forms that detail all sorts of issues, just in case! There really needs to be a sense of "reasonableness" about what is reported and so I have spoken to the children to ensure they understand the importance of telling adults if they are in pain or injured and have reiterated that these significant events will be reported home. Every day we are faced with children telling us they have sprained their ankle and once we give them an ice pack they run off up the stairs perfectly fine! Or a child who has a graze and knocks the scab off and says they have cut themselves. I am sure as parents you do not feel the need to be sent a message to this effect. There's an element of becoming complacent, if we are constantly messaging you about the little things. We will still report any facial or head injuries that require first aid and any significant injury using the Arbor app and the red notes home.

**There's no doubt that the next few weeks are going to be unsettled. Please stay safe and help us by following all the guidance and keeping us informed of all cases.**

**Very best wishes,  
Mrs Thomas**

