

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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4 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you with an update at the end of our first week. What a delight it has been to welcome back all our pupils and students after so long! Thank you for sending them in looking so incredibly smart and with all the correct equipment. I am pleased to report that attendance was excellent yesterday, with 96.6% of pupils in school. This is really encouraging. I am very proud of how everyone is adjusting to the new routines of bubbles, queuing places and where they can and can't go.

It has been especially good to welcome our new Year 7s and Year 12s. They missed out on their normal inductions in the summer term, so we are very impressed with how quickly they are settling into our Ripley family.

One of the issues encountered at the end of the first full day was blisters from new shoes and having to walk the long way around the outside the buildings! Ms Atkinson is needing to stock up on blister plasters as well as hand sanitiser now...

As we all get used to this 'new normal' I will write to you on a regular basis with updates and reminders to ensure the school continues to run smoothly.

## **Parking**

Whilst we are encouraging pupils to avoid public transport where they can, please do avoid parking on the double yellow lines near school when dropping off your child. This is dangerous and it is also causing problems with our many buses.

## **Coats**

Don't forget to send your child in with a warm, waterproof coat. Pupils will be spending much more time outside during breaks and lunches and when walking around the outside of our buildings. As the weather turns colder and wetter, this becomes an essential item!

## **Masks**

Children have been managing the wearing of masks well on buses and in corridors, for those that have chosen to wear them. Please ensure your child has a plastic bag to store their mask in. We have some in school if needed. Masks should be removed by the ear hooks and then placed in the plastic bag. Hands must then be sanitised.

## **Masks on buses**

Please remind your child that it is their responsibility to keep their mask on for the whole bus journey. Masks must not be removed after boarding or before getting off the bus.

## **Reading**

As you know, we love reading at Ripley. We have made a reading book part of our essential equipment, so please do remind your son / daughter to check they have packed something

*Believe.....*

Acting Principal Mrs C Walmsley  
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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to read each day. This could be a novel, something non-fiction or a magazine. There may be times when children are waiting in their bubble classroom for their teacher to arrive from teaching elsewhere on our large site. Pupils will be expected to get a book out and read during this time.

### **Lanyards and badges**

It is most important that students wear their badges everyday so that they can be easily identified for their bubble and pay for their lunches. Students must look after their badges; we do not have spare badges if a student forgets theirs. Replacement cost of lanyard and badge is £3, payable via ScoPay.

### **Illness**

A reminder not to send your son / daughter to school if they, or any family member that they live with, are experiencing a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a change in their normal taste or smell. Please phone to let us know, book a test immediately and inform us of the outcome.

### **Firefly**

Lesson resources will be uploaded to Firefly for pupils who may be self-isolating or in quarantine. It does create significant extra work for our teachers to have to upload everything - please bear with us whilst we get this up and running and into a new routine. If your child is off school, it is their responsibility to catch up on any work missed. They may email their teachers for help directly using their school email accounts. Pupils in Year 7 and our new Year 12s will receive training on email and Firefly during these first few weeks.

I wish you all a restful weekend after the shock of getting back to early mornings this week.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walmsley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Catherine Walmsley  
Acting Principal