

# Wyke Regis Primary Federation

*Inspiring Hearts and Minds*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## Happy New Year

Apologies for writing on a Sunday afternoon, but I thought you might appreciate this information amid the widespread media speculation about primary schools potentially closing. I am sure you are aware too of the various union activities which are centred on challenging the government about school safety and the protection of staff as well as children and their families.

I am sure there will be more activity and speculation this coming week, but I can confirm that both Federation schools are open as normal tomorrow.

Obviously the COVID picture has changed over the Christmas break and we will be continually looking at our school safety procedures and following any new guidance or directive from the government via the local education authority. I am also equally responsible for keeping the staff across both schools as safe as possible so that your children receive their education and we will be continually reviewing risk assessments and procedures with the SLT team to do this. This may result in some changes and we will of course, keep you informed.

We do rely on your co-operation with this huge safety task and therefore may I take the opportunity to remind you of the key ways you need to help us with:-

- Only 1 parent/carer to drop off and pick up children.
- Wear a mask at all times when on the school sites and around the gates.
- Maintain social distancing at all times and limit your contact with teachers where possible by directing messages through the school office by telephone.
- Stick only to the designated times for drop off and pick up – these are small windows that rely on everyone's punctuality. We may need to change these timings if we feel there are too many large groups of people congregating on site. Please report any concerns to us. In particular, do not drop off children really early at the Junior site as this causes congestions and problems on the school gate.
- Do not wait outside Victoria road gates to collect Junior children – please use the one way system via the High Street entrance.

- Use both sides of the road in Shrubbery Lane to give nursery parents the space they need to pick up children at 3.15pm.
- Keep us fully informed of any potential cases or testing taking place in your family. This has really helped us act appropriately and swiftly where needed.

For your information, the current timings are listed below and we will review these carefully this week at both ends of the day:-

FS1 (Nursery) 8.45-11.45 and 12.15-3.15

FS2 (Reception) 8.55-3.05

Y1 8.45-2.55

Y2 8.50-3.00

Y3 8.50-3.00

Y4 8.40-3.00

Y5 8.55-3.15

Y6 8.45-3.05

There will be plenty of staff on the playgrounds and at the gates to supervise children, including siblings awaiting pick-up at the lamp post in the middle of the site at the end of the day. Junior children may be dropped to walk themselves through the High Street gates at the start of the day if parents prefer, as staff will be posted along the path to the playground. This also helps reduce the number of adults on site.

These are certainly challenging times and I know some of you will be anxious about your children coming to school. I assure you that we will make every effort to keep the schools as safe as we can. I will also endeavour to keep you updated with the latest news as we get them in school. A weekly letter will continue to be sent at the end of each week, or sooner if needed, via email.

We look forward to welcoming the children back and seeing them all tomorrow and thank you for your ongoing support with these essential measures.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs W Roberts  
Head of Federation

Cc Chair of Governors Mr Gary Hepburn