



W/C 11/01/2021

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The Reaside Way: Communication - Pride - Respect - Safety

Letter to all children of Reaside Academy - Please read carefully, or have an adult read it to you.

Dear children of Reaside

As your head teacher, I am writing to you to tell you how proud I am of you. I have missed being able to do that in school as expected this week. The last 10 months has been so hard and tough for us all - but especially for each of you. You have been so brave and sensible throughout the many changes we have had to make. You should all be proud of yourselves for the children you are and the way in which you act. You make me so proud to be head teacher at Reaside. Thank you.

With our school closed, and most children at home, I want to remind you to listen to the adults at home. You now need to stay at home to protect yourself and stop coronavirus spreading once more. Being at home and away from school is both exciting and scary. I know that - just like last time - you will love spending time with your family and enjoying yourselves through play and learning. I also know that you will be worried about how long this will last again and what will happen to us all. I am too. The truth is, no one knows. It is not something we can control.

We can control how we keep our brains active and busy: Your teachers will continue to work so hard to give you lots of amazing learning opportunities every day. There are so many interesting and fun things for you to do each day. There is enough to never be bored, and you can complete it when it best works for your family. Complete your lessons on Class Dojo each day. Enjoy a book. Draw something. Cook something. Make something. Once again, take the chance to lead your own learning and share this learning with your families. If you have problems using any home learning resources or you need help remember to message your class teacher on Class Dojo. Don't be "bored" or "boring" be busy and active - this will help the time go quicker.

We can control keeping ourselves healthy. Exercise is important - especially in winter. It will be tempting to do nothing. Currently, families are allowed outside to exercise each day. Don't spend all day in front of a screen or device, move your body and exercise. If you are unwell, take the time to get better before you try and do too much. When you feel well - be active and keep healthy.

We can control how we look after our families. I need you all to be brilliant and show your families what amazing children you are. You need to do everything you can to help and be kind to all at home. Try and do at least 3 things every day which are helpful and kind, without needing to be asked. You can help keep your house tidy, help with meal times or take on a chore that you would not normally do. You can help your siblings and do your best to get along and be patient with each other. Show your family the love and care they deserve - put a smile on someone's face every chance you get. If you do this, you too will be smiling.

We can control keeping ourselves safe. Remember the 'Reaside Way' when online you can keep safe by being open and honest with adults about what you are doing. If something doesn't feel right, you need to speak to an adult to tell them. Don't talk to strangers online, don't use social media to be unkind to others and don't let your technology control you. Put down the phone, tablet or TV remote regularly and do something which will give your brain a break. Take care to always follow the rules from the government about only going outside for essential reasons, and always with an adult.

You will all come back to school safely when it is safe to do so. You will come back with more stories, new knowledge and once again with absolute joy at seeing your friends and classmates again. Our school community will be together once more. I can't tell you how much I miss having you in school already - I can't wait to have you back, safe ready to learn and achieve.

I want you to know that I and all the adults in school care about you a great deal. If you need anything then just ask an adult to contact school.

Stay safe, take care

Mrs Wiseman and the Reaside Team



Letter to all parents of Reaside Academy

Dear Parents and carers,

As you know, Reaside Academy is now closed until further notice to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which, with the new variant identified recently, is surging across the UK and Birmingham area. Do not attend school unless you have an essential emergency care place for key worker and vulnerable children. On Monday 4th January 2021, Boris Johnson announced very clear guidance: *"In England, we must therefore go into a national lockdown which is tough enough to contain this variant. That means the Government is once again instructing you to stay at home. You may only leave home for limited reasons permitted in law, such as to shop for essentials, to work if you absolutely cannot work from home, to exercise, to seek medical assistance such as getting a Covid test, or to escape domestic abuse."*

Our school remains open to support children of critical workers in the response to COVID-19, including a large number of NHS workers, and vulnerable children. We are once again proud to offer this crucial support, but this sacrifice relies on all our children and families following the guidance given from the Government carefully.

The dedicated Reaside staff team and I have been working hard to make the necessary changes, preparations and plans so that we were ready to open on Tuesday 5th January. I am sure you appreciate that once again our lives - working and personal - have been turned upside down once more. I am proud that once again our team have risen to the significant challenge.

For those of you staying at home, we have immediately rolled out our remote learning for all children, based primarily around Class Dojo. Work is updated each and every day for each class. Work can be accessed on any device which connects to the internet, including mobile phones and ipads. If internet is a problem, then please contact school and we can provide a free data SIM card for you to use, contact your child's class teacher on Class Dojo please.

Please remember - we are not putting unwelcome pressure on parents. We want all children to access learning, but if for any reason this is not possible every single day, then you will not be in trouble. Do what works for your child and your family - it is not a competition. There are always more work and activities than your child will need to complete. Some things they will find easier, some harder - they just need to do their best. We only ask families to do their best. When your child does eventually return to school, we will support them and help them achieve their potential. As staff, this is our vocation, our passion and our commitment to every child at Reaside.

If you are unable to access the resources for any reason, please contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo or telephone 0121 675 7235. We will contact you regularly to check on how learning is going, to check you are all safe and well, and to offer any support or additional help you may need. We'll also take every chance to check that you and your families are okay. If we can help with anything, just ask.

For those children who rely on a free school meal, we will supply you with our usual Wonde vouchers this week and next. This support for Free School Meal recipients will continue during term time until we return to school fully, and we will let you know when and if the method of support changes. For some families not in receipt of Free School Meals, you may still require support - including with food and supplies. If this is the case, contact school and we will try our best to offer support or signpost you to help.

We will continue to communicate primarily by email, Class Dojo, text, the school website and our Twitter account. Each week we will send out a newsletter showcasing the amazing work being completed and celebrating the success of our children - whatever that might be. Please be sure to read it on our website or Class Dojo every Friday.

I am always proud to lead such a wonderful school. I have great pride in everything we have been able to overcome through the last 10 months - and I know we will be able to cope with whatever is thrown at us now. Throughout this difficult time for our community and country, you have your part to play in keeping your children and families safe at home. We have our part to play in helping you to stay safe. Though we are apart, we remain the Reaside school community. **Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and understanding in this difficult time, please take care and stay safe.**

Kind regards

Mrs Wiseman and the Reaside Team

For further information regarding what's going on at Reaside Academy, please visit our website - www.reasideacademy.co.uk Follow us on twitter

If you wish to contact us please email enquiry@reaside.uwmat.co.uk or phone 0121 675 7235.