



**RYECROFT**  
C.E. MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ryecroft C.E. Middle School  
Ashbourne Road  
Rocester  
ST14 5BP

Headteacher: Mrs A Grattage  
Telephone: 01889 590394  
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"Loving and Learning together."

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to a new academic year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break.

We warmly congratulate Miss Holmes who got married over the summer break. She will soon be leaving us to commence maternity leave, and we welcome Mr Jones as her replacement. We also welcome our new Year 5 cohort to school today and several children joining other year groups from other schools. It's great to be back together for another school year. We have lots planned already!

### **Start of Term**

In the first weeks of term, you will be receiving a number of forms and paperwork. It is crucial we work in partnership together and I would ask that you kindly complete the paperwork and return it to school as soon as possible.

### **Attendance 'First Day Contact'**

Please remember that we need to be informed early on the first day and each subsequent day of absence, if your son/daughter cannot attend school. Please also ensure that we have updated emergency contact numbers and that, in particular, any telephone numbers for places of work are correct. We must have a minimum of 2 contacts for all pupils. We also operate a free text service so please ensure that we have a correct mobile phone number. Please note that, if a pupil is absent and we have not been contacted, we will contact you at home or work to determine that the absence is genuine.

If there have been any changes to the health care needs of your son/daughter, please ensure these are shared with our office team so that we can ensure the appropriate healthcare plans are in place.

### **Holidays in Term Time**

Legislation states that I am not able to grant term time holiday requests – in fact it is illegal for me to do so. Furthermore, holidays in term time may result in the Local Authority issuing parents with a £60-£120 penalty notice. Therefore, I ask you to ensure that all holidays are booked outside of term time. I know that this may seem punitive but it is the law and I have no option but to follow it.

### **Behaviour for Learning policy**

We have revised and updated our behaviour for learning policy and will be sharing this with all pupils in the coming weeks. Our new policy is centred on our 3 main school values which are: respect, responsibility and resilience. So that we can ensure all of our young people are given the opportunity to flourish they must develop self-discipline and be given autonomy to make the right choices within a clear framework of high expectations that are driven by our school values.

These values are embedded within our daily practice and routines. From the first day at school, pupils are expected to adopt and develop these values in everything they do.



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### **Respect**

Be polite and well mannered  
Be kind and considerate  
Listen to others without interruption  
Respond quickly and positively  
Keep yourself and others safe

### **Responsible**

Look smart (Adhere to our school uniform expectations)  
Accept responsibility for the choices you make  
Take pride in your work and the environment  
Be independent, conscientious learners  
Attend, be punctual and equipped

### **Resilient**

Approach learning with a positive 'can do' attitude  
Persevere when learning is challenging  
Absorb yourself in learning  
Accept that failure is necessary for success  
Work hard

At Ryecroft we have high expectations of our pupils and will not compromise or accept excuses. We will always listen and support the individual needs of every pupil in a 'child centred, progress focused' way. Although meeting our expectations for some pupils maybe challenging, we do expect all pupils, without exception to live by our values 100% of the time. This includes when pupils are:

- In learning
- Out of class during unstructured time (Corridor movement, break and lunchtime)
- Taking part in any school or MAT-organised activity.
- Travelling to and from school.
- Whilst wearing school uniform in public.
- In some other way identifiable as a student at our school.

If they do this, their hard work will be recognised and rewarded. However, the school will not hesitate to challenge, correct and sanction individual pupils who do not meet the expectations. After all, our priority is the learning, progress and wellbeing of all our pupils and not one individual should be allowed to jeopardise that for others without consequence.

Our revised consequence system is designed to give pupils choices and an opportunity to 'get it right'. Teachers will always provide pupils with choices to correct their actions and in turn minimise behaviour which undermines their own learning, or that of others. A series of sanctions are in place for pupils who choose to not respond positively. One such sanction is detention. Although school does not need to seek permission from parents/carers to keep pupils for a detention, we will give pupils and families 24 hours' notice and run detentions as 'next day' consequences. You will be advised via text message and phone call if your child is required to stay after school the following day for a detention.



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### **Our school day**

A reminder of our school day timings. Please ensure your child arrives at school every day, on time and ready to learn.

8:45am – Start of day  
8:50 – 9:15am – Form/Assembly  
9:15 – 10:15am – Lesson 1  
10:15 – 11:15am – Lesson 2  
11:15 – 11:30am – Break  
11:30 – 12:30pm – Lesson 3  
12:30 – 1:20pm – Lunch  
1:20 – 2:20pm – Lesson 4  
2:20 – 3:20pm – Lesson 5  
3:20 – 3:40pm – Form

### **Communication policy**

As you know, education is most successful when parents, pupils and staff all work in partnership. Communication is vital to our successful partnership. We send out a weekly newsletter, text messages, Facebook and Twitter posts in addition to regular e-mails. Our school website also contains a huge amount of information. We are very proud of our staff who work very hard and are committed to our pupils and our community.

If you have a query about your child or our school you should contact our office team who will be able to direct you towards the most appropriate member of our team. Please be aware that as part of our workload and wellbeing policy, we ask that all stakeholders refrain from emailing staff outside the hours of 8-5 Monday to Friday. Additionally, please do not expect an immediate response from staff. We commit to a right to a reply within 3 working days. If the issue is urgent and/or of a safeguarding nature, please telephone the school office.

We will be seeking parental voice at regular intervals throughout the year. Parents' evenings, curriculum evenings, SEND parent meetings and special events are all opportunities for you to share your views in an appropriate forum to support the ongoing development of our school.

Thank you for your ongoing support for our school. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way at all.

Yours sincerely,

*A. Grattage*

**Mrs A Grattage**  
**Headteacher**