



**Ryhope Infant School Academy**  
Shaftesbury Ave, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 ORT  
Tel: 0191 917 1910 Fax: 0191 521 1224  
Email: [info@ryhopeinfantschool.org.uk](mailto:info@ryhopeinfantschool.org.uk)  
[www.ryhopeinfantschool.org.uk](http://www.ryhopeinfantschool.org.uk)

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**Headteacher: Mrs T Allen**

1 July 2020

Dear Parents

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Our thoughts and prayers are with families and friends who have suffered bereavement during this challenging time.

As a collective of Sunderland schools across the city we would like to extend our thanks to all of our school families for their support and hard work during this current crisis, whether accessing school at home or on site. It has been our pleasure to be able to support critical workers in their response to COVID-19. We would like to share our appreciation to our staff, for their dedication throughout this time. While working with our key worker families and prioritised year groups it is delightful to witness our schools slowly and safely coming back to a new normal.

In consultation, with Sunderland Local Authority, and where appropriate, the Catholic Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle and the Church of England Diocese of Durham & Newcastle, schools will close, to all children, for the summer holidays, on Friday 17th July 2020 and return on Wednesday 2nd September 2020. Sunderland Local Authority and partners are aiming to provide summer activities throughout the city.

As the new guidance comes into place for England on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 please remember that the advice is to aim to stay two metres apart, but, 'where it is not possible to stay two metres apart, guidance will allow people to keep a social distance of 'one metre plus'. This means staying one metre apart, plus mitigations which reduce the risk of transmission.' <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> June 23rd 2020.

We look forward to joining together as a whole school community in the autumn term, implementing the new Department for Education guidance. Children, families and staff need to be refreshed for the new academic year and the regular plus additional demands that this pandemic brings to our school communities. Enjoy your summer, remember to socially distance and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Allen  
Headteacher

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