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Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted that schools have been permitted to return to offering an array of sporting activity this year. We see massive benefits to the physical and mental health of our pupils and also positive self-esteem benefits it offers to pupils and strengthening of relationships with the staff who deliver sport. Most importantly, we hope that passion for sport which starts here at Rickleton will have a life-long impact.

Competitive sport has always been a priority at Rickleton, with many staff offering their free time to run teams which have been successful, both in the results they achieve and also in the relationships built with other schools and the reputation of the school in the wider community.

However, as with all large primary schools, we appreciate that it can be very difficult to ensure that all pupils get to represent the school and experience these positive benefits. We hope to make major steps forward in the quantity of non-competitive and competitive sports opportunities available in school, particularly as we emerge from Covid. We will work to offer our pupils:

	EYFS	KS1	KS2
Curriculum PE	A minimum of one hour high quality PE lesson each week, led by either skilled class teachers or Mr. Todd, our regular sports coach. Lessons will always be supported by an additional adult, most often Mr Howard, our PE apprentice, to ensure support and challenge for all pupils.		
Additional Coaching	A minimum of 2 x 5 week blocks with an additional outside coach, supported by the class teacher. These coaching blocks, delivered by highly skilled coaches linked to national governing bodies and other agencies, will focus on development of basic skills in younger pupils and sport specific skills for older pupils.		
Festivals and Tournaments	Additional coaching for younger pupils will allow them access to internal competitions and challenge within school where appropriate	Coaching blocks for older pupils will, where available, progress to festivals and sporting competitions. This can be limited by opportunities and events available in the local area but, where possible, pupils will attend events having had experience of the skills needed to be successful. When choosing a team is necessary, performance in coaching sessions will be measured.	
Outdoor and Adventurous activity	We appreciate the benefits to lifelong fitness brought by enjoying the outdoors. Younger pupils will enjoy blocks of working outdoors in our lovely school grounds, gardens and forest areas.		A range of onsite 'Forest School' experiences plus planned residential events will be available across KS2.
Swimming	Parents are encouraged to take younger children to the swimming baths to experience the water and begin swimming lessons where possible.		We send 60 children each week for an hour of swimming. These blocks happen in Y4 and 5, with booster sessions used for some Y6 pupils.
Active Break times	Yards are marked with a range of basic skill activities. Older play 'ambassadors' support pupils to enjoy being active.		A range of yard facilities encourage competitive and adventurous sport. Weekly tasks support all pupils to challenge themselves. Play 'ambassadors' in work to support all pupils in the year group to be involved.
Competitive Sport	Competitive opportunities are limited by guidelines set out by governing bodies at younger age ranges. Internal competition in PE lessons and attendance at sports festivals when available, prepare pupils for the challenges of winning and losing in a positive manner.		All KS2 pupils begin to access more intra school competition against fellow students. For Y5 and 6 pupils, opportunities then grow to for inter school competitions against other schools. Where only one team is available this will always be based on trial and selection. However, we aim to increase the number of teams available to ensure more Y5/6 children can compete.