



# Ripponden J&I News

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Well, we have come to the end of the first half term of the new year and we have managed to pack stacks in! The Covid situation has interfered with some plans but we have got through it, together. This is largely due to the fabulous community spirit we have and foster throughout school, so as always, thank you for your continued support.

A massive thank you, too, to our incredible, dedicated and hardworking staff. They have worked so hard and pulled together to support each other and the children, during times of staff shortages – often working extra and in different roles, so thank you to each and every one. We are so lucky to have such a great team and I am eternally grateful to each and every one.

We unfortunately say goodbye to our wonderful caretaker, Mr Baxter, who is leaving us today. We will miss him terribly and thank him so much for his hard work with us. We interviewed yesterday for a new caretaker and we appointed Mr Swallow. James will be starting with us as soon as possible after the holidays.

We break up today for the half term holidays. We return back to school on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** as the Monday is a training day, where teachers will be updating their first aid skills.

I wish you a wonderful week. We have a few spaces left in Busy Bees, if you need it, get in touch.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Bamforth".

Headteacher

## COVID-19 Testing

Covid guidance has changed. There is no longer a need for anyone who has been fully vaccinated or who are under 18 to isolate if they have been a close contact of a positive case. I will, in the interests of transparency let you know if we have any cases and ask you be extra vigilant regarding symptom spotting. If your child has any symptoms, please do not send them to school – please arrange for a PCR test and keep them at home until the result. If your child has been around a person who has tested positive, you can also arrange a PCR test for them, but they can still come into school while waiting on the results (unless they have symptoms) Please keep me informed of any tests being taken and any results. This is because I need to keep a track to see whether we need to invoke the outbreak management plan. Please use the office email [office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk) or text/call **07399 326030**. In all other cases, if your child would normally be well enough to send into school, please do. As always, contact us if you need help, support or advice. Thanks.

At present, we have a number of members of staff who are confirmed positive and awaiting a result, as per the email sent earlier. Please be vigilant with your children and if in doubt, please arrange a PCR.

### **Hubble bubble, toil and trouble...**

As we know, we have had a Hallowe'en dress down today and Little Acorns have been making their own potions using all sorts of things...porridge oats, pomegranate seeds, cinnamon, frozen peas....the list goes on! However, the children were using ingredients such as 'bats eyes', 'frog's legs' 'powdered newts' etc. The children have had a great time and been very creative!



### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Parent Survey**

We've been working really hard over the last few years to improve our approaches to Mental Health and Wellbeing at Ripponden J&I. As ever, we endeavour to look for ways to improve our provision in school and we'd really appreciate your feedback about how we meet the needs of your child/children via the Mental Health and wellbeing Parent Survey that you can find here: <https://forms.gle/2s4nPKoWnBVix7F89>

We really appreciate your input and look forward to implementing the feedback that you provide.

## **Mental Health and Well-being: Year 5 & 6 Parent Workshop**

Date for your diary: 1st December at 4pm

OpenMinds Calderdale, through the Transition Project, will be hosting an online parent workshop on Supporting and Understanding Anxiety in Children. Links to the meeting will be published the week prior to the event. We are really hoping for a fabulous turn out as anxiety is fast becoming a reality for many children at the moment due to the last couple of tumultuous years.

A workshop for parents for the remainder of the school is in the works and will take place in November. Please watch this space for further details.

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing Virtual Parent Workshop - All Year Groups**

📢 Calling all parents - Save the date! 📢

24th November from 6pm-7pm.

As promised, we have arranged a Mental Health and Wellbeing virtual workshop for parents on supporting your children with anxiety, resilience, and social media for ALL year groups (in addition to the Y5&6 session on 1/12/21).

This session will be led by Kirsty Longbottom, a mental health practitioner with OpenMinds, who has run a few in-school workshops with our children over the last couple of years and she's absolutely brilliant.

Links will be published here in the newsletter, on our school Facebook page and sent out via email the week prior to the session.

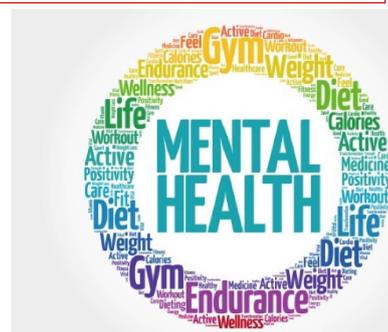
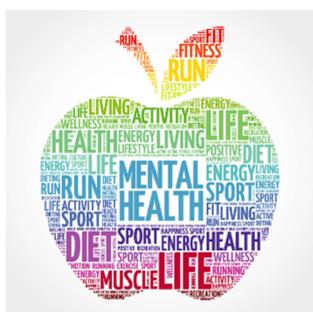
We hope that you will find this workshop to be helpful!

If there's anything else that you would like us to have a workshop on, please don't hesitate to ask. We'll do everything we can to arrange it!

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing Working Party**

After a great success with the Wellbeing Parent working party last year, we are introducing a whole-school community Mental Health and Wellbeing working party to come together once or twice a half-term (depending on need) on a weekday evening for a solutions-based focus to improve the mental health and wellbeing of everyone in our school community.

We are hoping that with staff, parents and governors working together for a common goal, we will have even more of an impact on improving mental health and wellbeing in our school. Our focus will be to respond to the parent/pupil/staff and governor Mental Health and Wellbeing surveys. Our first meeting will take place towards the end of November (date and location to be determined). If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to the office to the attention of Emily Hutchinson - the Senior Mental Health Lead. Thank you!



### Unusual visitors

We are so lucky where we are with our grounds and we have had some super 'visitors' in the last few years. Last week, we had a group of pheasant on our field...they looked like they were playing football! Caused much hilarity and excitement from the children who could see them!



### The weather doesn't stop Little Acorns!

The weather hasn't been very kind over the last few weeks, but that doesn't stop Little Acorns! They put their waterproofs on, with their wellies and crack on with it! Here are some photos of them playing in the rain and being inventive with their equipment!



### Great Oaks: Nature Sculptors!

In Great Oaks, we have been inspired by the sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. We have been working hard over the last half term to develop our own Land Art nature sculptures from collecting natural materials, sketching the natural materials, and then using the materials to create our own sculptures. We hope that you enjoy our art. Here is what we have been up to:





### **New Age Curling**

For a sport the children had never played before they took on this new challenge enthusiastically. They had respect for the teams and played against and were absolutely brilliant. Great team work and we look forward to the next event. Well done to Leo and Elsie in Willows and Elsie and Betsy in Redwoods. Thank you to Mrs Calcott for taking the children to this event.

## There's spooky goings on in Ripponden...

Today has been spooky in school! We have had a Hallowe'en Dress up day to raise money for the PTFA to go towards our additional Smart Screens for the classrooms. Thank you so much to all the families who have put such effort into costumes (and some amazing face painting!) and thank you all so much for your kind and generous donations. The PTFA will update you with the total raised after the holidays. Thank you again.



## Branch Out Awards

### **Not Giving Up!**

Saplings – Eva B  
Great Oaks – Elsie B-C

### **Being Enthusiastic**

Saplings – Franky M  
Great Oaks – Oliver G

### **Showing Respect**

Saplings – Eddie W  
Great Oaks – Jake C

### **Being Kind and Caring**

Little Acorns – Vinnie H  
Saplings – Edith S  
Great Oaks – Summer C

### **Making Good Choices**

Little Acorns – Evelyn S  
Saplings – Madeleine A  
Great Oaks – Summer C

## **Diary Dates**

***Lots of dates will be added regularly – keep an eye on the diary dates section! We will add more detail in the coming weeks.***

### **October**

W/c 25<sup>th</sup>

Busy Bees open all week – more information to follow

### **November**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup>

Training Day – Busy Bees open

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Reopen to children

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

KS2 celebration assembly

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Christmas pudding orders to go home

### **December**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Christmas Jumper Day - £1 minimum donation

KS2 celebration assembly

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

Christmas pudding orders back to school

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Full Governing Meeting

Friday 10<sup>th</sup>

Clubs finish for Christmas

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>

Christmas puddings brought into school to go home

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

School Closes for Christmas

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Training Day – Busy Bees open

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Busy Bees open – more information to follow

### **January 2022**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>

School reopens

Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

KS2 celebration assembly

### **February**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>

Full Governing Meeting

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

Close for half term

Monday 28<sup>th</sup>

Reopen

## March

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 celebration assembly
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Meeting

## April

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Close for Easter
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Reopen for the summer term

## May

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	May Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School reopen
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 celebration assembly
W/C Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 SATs Week
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Meeting
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	School closes for half term

## June

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed – Queen's Jubilee
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 celebration assembly
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 residential to Langdale all week

## July

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 celebration assembly
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Meeting
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School closes for summer



### Ripponden J&I School

Halifax Road  
Ripponden  
Sowerby Bridge  
HX6 4AH  
(01422) 823362

[office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk)

*Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all*