



Ripponden J&I News

Friday 8th October 2021

Dear parents/carers,

As you will be aware, there have been increasing numbers of positive cases over the last couple of weeks. The 'warn and inform' letters have been going out almost daily to alert you to cases and I have also been putting where the new cases are, so you know whether your child is classed as a close contact. The guidance is that if your child has been a close contact (and let's be honest, children can't socially distance!) then they should have a PCR test.

We are getting to a point where we may need to start reintroducing safety measures, such as masks and possibly staggered starts and finishes to minimise contacts, but I will, as always take advice from Public Health and keep you informed.

You may wish to wear a face covering yourself and if this is the case, please feel free to do so. Please also be vigilant with your children and if they are in any way poorly, please do not send them to school. We are also very short staffed with some staff testing positive or having to wait for test results. It is for this reason that your child may have a supply teacher, often at short notice, or it may be that due to staff shortages books may not be changed, for example. We apologise for this but we are sure you will understand that we continue to do our best for the children under difficult circumstances. Hopefully this won't last too much longer (?!).

I wish you a wonderful weekend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V 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 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.

Cross Country – Friday 8th October

It has felt like a lifetime ago since we were able to take children to sporting competitions, but today we took 38 children from Key Stage 2 to Ryburn to compete in the cross country competition. These children had already competed in heats at school so were raring to go. Historically, this is an event we usually do very well in, but with almost 2 years out of competition, we were unsure as to how we would do.

Well....we only went and won!! Woo hoo! We won the competition overall with some very impressive individual and team efforts, well done to all involved. Special mentions go to Ethan and Florian who came first out of all the Year 6 and Year 4 respectively – and there were over 40 runners in each group! Needless to say, both boys have qualified for the Calderdale finals. Fantastic! Isobel in Year 5 came a fabulous 4th place and has also qualified for Calderdale finals. In terms of teams, Year 4 boys, Year 4 girls and Year 6 girls collectively scored highly enough to go through to the Calderdale finals – what an achievement! Well done to all involved, we are really proud of you!

It felt amazing to be part of a competition again after all this time and here's looking forward to many more over the coming months!





World Mental Health Day – 10th October 2021

World Mental Health Day is on 10th October, so we are celebrating on Monday 11th October as a school.

The theme is 'Hello Yellow' and all children are encouraged to wear a little bit of yellow (shirt or shoes or jewellery or headband or face paint or bow tie or hat, etc) for a dress down day.

Families are being asked to donate £2/child towards the day to be paid via bank transfer to the school bank account referencing your child's name and WMHD2021 or via cash on the day. All fundraising goes towards YoungMinds, a brilliant mental health charity which supports young people and their parents with their well-being and mental health.

Let's shine bright on Monday for a good cause!



Traction Man in Great Oaks

Great Oaks have been starting their English work on the fabulous book 'Traction Man is Here' by Mini Grey. We re-enacted a scene from the book using small world toys and worked on our voice over work to develop expression when we're reading. Here is what we've created so far:



Peer Mentoring

As part of our focus on mental health and wellbeing, we are delighted to be re-introducing our successful peer mentoring program which had to be shelved due to Covid restrictions.

All children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will have the opportunity to apply to be peer mentors. All applications - available from your child's class teacher - need to be in by Friday 15th October so that Mrs Bamforth and Mrs Hutchinson can determine the best candidates for the role and inform them before the upcoming break. Training will commence after the October Half-Term Holiday with drop-in peer mentoring sessions beginning once the training is complete. Years 1 & 2 will have some peer mentoring training and will lead mini adult-supported sessions as well and that information will be forthcoming.

Coats and Carpark!

Just a couple of reminders; the weather is very changeable at the moment. Please send your child in with a coat, even if it appears nice in the morning. There have been a few occasions where it has started off lovely but then is raining by playtime. As we are going to be coming into the colder weather too, hats and gloves would be a good idea to start bringing too.

A polite reminder (again!) about the car park. We are seeing increasing numbers of parents and children walking through the car park. This is mainly the Busy Bees parents, but this causes much concern for staff who are getting in to work. Please, please use the path beside the bungalow to access around school. I know it will take a minute or so longer, but it will be worth it to save potential accidents. Just this morning staff witnessed children and parents walking in front of reversing cars. It is incredibly frightening to think what could happen. Thank you for your understanding.

Caretaker News

It is with great sadness that I announce that Mr Baxter, our wonderful caretaker is leaving us (again!). Warner came back to us from East Yorkshire, from where he has travelled in to us for the last 14 months but he and his wife have both got jobs nearer to home. It is time for them to not spend their time on the motorway, but have that much craved for work/life balance. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing him the best of luck.

If you, or anyone you know would be interested in the job of caretaker, please see our website under vacancies or it is on the Calderdale Jobs Website.

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

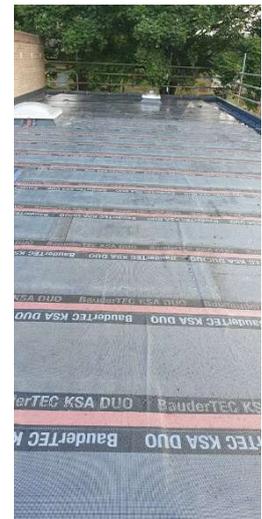
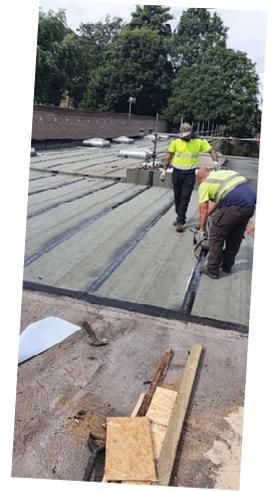
Date for your diary: 1st December at 4pm

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.

Roofing and building works

Our building work has finished! The contractors have worked really hard and completed both the roof and the boiler work to high standards. Huge thank you to Mr Baxter for overseeing and managing the work – it was a huge job! We thought you would like to see before and after pictures. We certainly needed the work doing and hopefully we won't be using buckets again this autumn and winter!



Branch Out Awards

Not Giving Up!

Chestnuts – Darcie M
Willows – Sophie W
Maples – William B
Redwoods – Charlotte Q

Being Enthusiastic

Chestnuts – Seth T
Willows – Leo H
Maples – Jude R
Redwoods – Chloe B

Showing Respect

Chestnuts – Charlie W
Willows – Elsie W
Maples – Bella W
Redwoods – Joe T-P

Being Kind and Caring

Chestnuts – Jasmine W-D
Willows – Eleanor B
Maples – Sam C
Redwoods – Tenisha T

Making Good Choices

Chestnuts – Isla M
Willows – Calum R
Maples – Cooper C
Redwoods – Wilfred B

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

Monday 11 th	Mental Health dress down day – wear yellow - £2 donation
Friday 15 th	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Tuesday 19 th	Full Governing Meeting
Wednesday 20 th	Nasal Flu Immunisation
Friday 22 nd	Hallowe'en Dress Down Day - £1 minimum donation
	Close for half term
W/c 25 th	Busy Bees open all week – more information to follow

November

Monday 1 st	Training Day – Busy Bees open
Tuesday 2 nd	Reopen to children
Friday 5 th	KS2 celebration assembly
	Toffee Apple sale after school
Friday 19 th	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Monday 22 nd	Christmas pudding orders to go home

December

Friday 3 rd	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 minimum donation
	KS2 celebration assembly
Monday 6 th	Christmas pudding orders back to school
Tuesday 7 th	Full Governing Meeting
Friday 10 th	Clubs finish for Christmas
Monday 13 th	Christmas puddings brought into school to go home
Thursday 16 th	School Closes for Christmas
Friday 17 th	Training Day – Busy Bees open
Monday 20 th – Thursday 23 rd	Busy Bees open – more information to follow

January 2022

Tuesday 4 th	School reopens
Friday 14 th	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Friday 28 th	KS2 celebration assembly

February

Tuesday 8 th	Full Governing Meeting
Friday 11 th	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Friday 18 th	Close for half term
Monday 28 th	Reopen

March

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

April

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

May

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

June

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

July

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



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Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all