



Ripponden J&I News

Friday 31st January 2025

Dear parents/carers,

Well, January is over, what feels like the longest month of the year!

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week (see details below) and this is a really important week in our calendar, to support our children and give them strategies to relax, cope and get enough rest. We also have a fundraiser for Healthy Minds on Friday, where we invite you to 'Dare to Be You!' where children can come to school wearing something that represents themselves. This could be a football kit, a hobby uniform, a certain colour – anything goes! We just ask for a donation in return for daring to be themselves, to support Healthy Minds charity.

I know I raise this often, but when bringing children to school for Busy Bees or collecting at the end of the day, please, please, use the path behind the cars. Numerous times staff have had to speak to parents who walk, with their children, right through the car park. Inevitably, when parents are dropping off or picking up from Busy Bees, staff are arriving or leaving and walking through the car park is incredibly dangerous. Just this week, a member of staff had to slam on their brakes to avoid a child running through the car park. The last thing anyone wants is for a child to be hit by a car, so please, use the path – it is for everyone's benefit.

We have just two weeks left of the half term – the weeks are flying by! Busy Bees are open all week if you would like to book your children in – this is open on the app. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

With kindest regards

Headteacher

How Safe is WhatsApp for Children? – NSPCC

WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people in 180 countries. It allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number. However, children and young people can easily subvert the restrictions placed on its access. Although rated at 16+, all that is required is a phone number. All it takes is one child in a class to be on whatsapp, and all the others will wish to join. This can lead to increased vulnerabilities for child users. The NSPCC has released its own analysis about the dangers of the app. If interested, please follow the link: [Is WhatsApp safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)





Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is children's mental health week. This is an opportunity for all children to examine their mental health and look at ways in which we and they can support it. We have a program of events planned for the week, many thanks to Miss Smith for pulling this together and for the external agencies for supporting this. We are sure it will be a great week for everyone!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Assembly to launch Children's Mental Health Week.</p> <p>Random Act of Kindness – children to pick names out of a hat and do something for that child this week – it could be to give them a compliment, draw them a picture or tell them a joke – anything goes!</p>	<p>Years 3&4 Sleep Superheroes workshop from TIMEOUT – the importance of sleep on children's mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Year 5&6 Manging Worries workshop from TIMEOUT – as children get older, their worries around friendship and transition become greater and this workshop will allow them to acknowledge worries and manage them.</p>	<p>Yoga and Mindfulness for Reception and Key Stage 1. Our resident Yoga guru, Judith Abbott will be working with Little Acorns, Saplings and Great Oaks on yoga, relaxation and mindfulness.</p>	<p>DARE TO BE YOU! Non-uniform day, where you can come dressed as something that represents you! Donations encouraged please, to send to Healthy Minds, to fund some of the vital work they do to support mental health and wellbeing.</p>

Sensory Circuits

Before Christmas, we sent out an appeal for items such as scooters and gym balls, to begin setting up our own sensory circuits in school. Thank you for those who have sent in items. Miss Smith and some of our fabulous support staff have been working to set up and learn about sensory circuits and how it can benefit children with additional needs. They have many benefits, including enhancing attention, developing motor skills, reducing anxiety, improving coordination and improving behaviour for learning.

We are now in the final stages of getting sensory circuits up and running for our children who need this and have brought together a range of sensory resources that children can use to regulate.

One parent reached out to us about setting up an Amazon wish list for the more unique resources that we need. For those who were here during the Covid times, this is much like our Woodland Room development. There is absolutely no obligation to purchase anything, as we know that times are tough for many. However, we know that we have some very generous parents who are always asking how they can help and as everyone knows, school budgets are becoming increasingly tight. If you would like to support the Sensory Circuits appeal, the link is here - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3RTX721U978XP?ref=wl_share Huge thank you, as always, for your support.



Timeline Challenge

This week, we launched our Timeline Challenge, where we asked children to design pictures for various significant historical periods, that Damian will then paint onto the main corridor in school. Children can enter as many pictures as they would like for as many eras as they would like and can bring entries into school, any time between now and Friday 28th February. In addition to the eras we sent out, we would like to add some more in, with either national or local significance. These are:

- The Suffragette Movement
- The signing of the Magna Carter
- The English Civil War
- War of the Roses
- Ripponden School opens
- The Bridge Pub opens
- St Bartholomew's Church opens
- The Bridge in Ripponden is built

These events in history are not taught in the National Curriculum but are significant to the country or the settlement of the village. Some of the eras may need a bit of researching, but this is why it is called a challenge! The other categories are below as a reminder. We are really excited to see the children's entries and I will keep you updated in the process.

Dinosaurs become extinct	Stone Age	Iron Age	Vikings
Bronze Age	Ancient Egypt	Ancient Maya	Romans
Ancient Greece	Anglo-Saxons	Norman Conquest	Tudors
Islamic Golden Age	Columbus	Great Fire of London	WWI
Crimean War	Industrial Revolution	Victorians	WWII
Rosa Parks	Martin Luther King	Space Age	Covid
Queen Elizabeth II	King Charles III and Queen Camilla		



Daily Mile Medal Winners

A very big well done to these children in Redwoods who have achieved their bronze medals for 25 miles around our track and then also the silver medals, for an impressive 50 miles! A very big achievement, well done guys!

Harry Potter Week

Monday 17 th February	Tuesday 18 th February	Wednesday 19 th February	Thursday 20 th February	Friday 21 st February
Breakfast served between 8-9am	Breakfast served between 8-9am	Breakfast served between 8-9am	Breakfast served between 8-9am	Breakfast served between 8-9am
AM – Butterbeer Cupcakes	AM – Potions Class and Potions Necklace	AM – Make your own wand	AM – Edible Sorting Hats	AM – Triwizard Tournament Games
				
Lunch 12-1pm Please bring a packed lunch	Lunch 12-1pm Please bring a packed lunch	Lunch 12-1pm Please bring a packed lunch	Lunch 12-1pm Please bring a packed lunch	Lunch 12-1pm Please bring a packed lunch
PM – Wanted Wizard Posters	PM – Harry Potter Hama Beads	PM – Invisibility Cloak	PM – Harry Potter Felt Ties	PM – Hogwarts Wizarding Party
				
Snack between 3.30-4.30pm	Snack between 3.30-4.30pm	Snack between 3.30-4.30pm	Snack between 3.30-4.30pm	Snack between 3.30-4.30pm

Busy Bees at Half Term – book on the app!

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.

February

Monday 3 rd	Children's Mental Health Week Curling Competition
Tuesday 4 th	Year 3/4 Workshop on the importance of sleep
Wednesday 5 th	Year 5/6 Workshop on coping with stress and worries
Thursday 6 th	Yoga Workshops for Reception and Key Stage 1
Friday 7 th	Dare to Be You – Dress Down fundraiser for Healthy Minds KS2 Celebration Assembly – 2.45pm
Wednesday 12 th	Parent Coffee Morning
Friday 14 th	R/KS1 Celebration Assembly – 2.45pm Break up for half term
W/C 17 th	School closed – Busy Bees Open all week
Monday 24 th	School reopens Young Voices – Coop Arena, Manchester
Friday 28 th	KS2 Celebration Assembly – 2.45pm

March

Tuesday 4 th	Parents' Evening
Thursday 6 th	World Book Day Parents' Evening
Friday 7 th	R/KS1 Celebration Assembly – 2.45pm
Wednesday 12 th	Parent Coffee Morning
Friday 14 th	KS2 Celebration Assembly – 2.45pm
Monday 17 th	Saplings Calderdale Book of the Year Workshop
Friday 21 st	R/KS1 Celebration Assembly – 2.45pm
Friday 28 th	Clubs finish for Easter KS2 Celebration Assembly – 2.45pm
Monday 31 st	Rock Steady Concert

April

Wednesday 2 nd	Parent Coffee Morning
Friday 4 th	Break up for Easter

2024/2025 Calendar of main events

This is a summary of main events. Please keep looking at the half-termly diary dates section on the newsletter, as they get updated regularly.



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Growing Together, Reaching for the Sky

	January	February	March
1			
2			
3			
4			Parents Evening
5			
6	School reopens		World Book Day Parents Evening
7		KS2 Celebration Assembly	R/KS1 Celebration Assembly
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13	Clubs restart		
14		R/KS1 Celebration Assembly Break up for half term	KS2 Celebration Assembly
15			
16			
17	R/KS1 Celebration Assembly		
18			
19			
20			
21			R/KS1 Celebration Assembly
22			
23			
24	KS2 Celebration Assembly	School reopens Young Voices	
25			
26			
27			
28		KS2 Celebration Assembly	Clubs finish for Easter KS2 Celebration Assembly
29			
30			
31	R/KS1 Celebration Assembly		Rock Steady Concert

	April	May	June	July
1				
2		R/KS1 Celebration Assembly	School reopens	
3				
4	Close for Easter			Clubs finish for summer Transition Day – TBC R/KS1 Celebration Assembly
5		BANK HOLIDAY		
6			R/KS1 Celebration Assembly	
7				Rock Steady Concert
8				
9		KS2 Celebration Assembly	Sports Week	
10			Sports Day	
11				KS2 Celebration <u>Assembly</u> <u>Reports Out</u>
12		Y6 SATs Week		
13			KS2 Celebration Assembly	
14				
15				
16		R/KS1 Celebration Assembly	Y6 Residential all week	Year 6 Production
17				
18				School closes for summer
19				
20			R/KS1 Celebration Assembly	
21	BANK HOLIDAY - EASTER			
22	School reopens			
23		KS2 Celebration Assembly Close for half term		
24				
25				
26				
27			KS2 Celebration Assembly	
28	Clubs restart			
29				
30				
31				