



# Ripponden J&I News

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear parents/carers,

And so we come to the last newsletter of this academic year.

This has been a very busy and different year to one I have ever known. It has been 'normal' but it really hasn't!

I have been incredibly proud of what we have achieved this year, the children have been so resilient and hardworking and have made great progress. The staff have worked tirelessly to provide rich learning experiences for the children, to make learning fun and engaging – all while working behind the scenes on our curriculum and covering for absent colleagues. It has been a tough year for many reasons, but so nice for things to be opening up a bit and being able to share things with our families again. I think we took it for granted precovid, which now makes each opportunity all the more special.

Speaking of which, thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for different activities over the last few weeks. It has been so lovely to see lots of you. We would like to plan a series of different activities over the next academic year – so if there is anything in particular you would like us to put on, please do let us know.

Many thanks for those who completed the parental survey. It is always useful to gain insight into what our families thoughts are. I will send an analysis with actions next week.

Reports are coming out this evening with end of year data on and a snapshot of your child this year. It was an absolute pleasure reading all 200 of them and putting a comment on them. It also includes your child's attendance for the year. Our attendance this year is the lowest it has been since I have been here and this hasn't just been Covid-related, but many people taking children out of school for holidays. Please be aware that attendance monitoring is one of my statutory duties and for those children whose attendance is causing concern, I will be monitoring very closely next year.

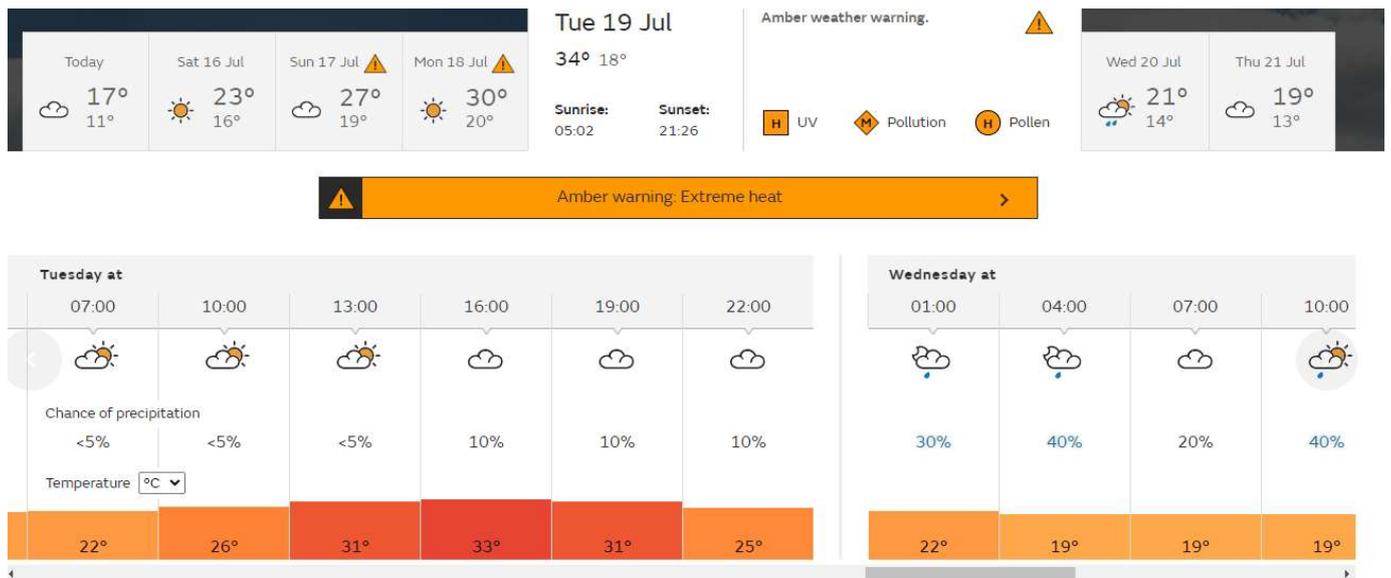
I hope to see many of you over the next week, but for those I don't, I wish you a wonderful summer break when it arrives and I hope that you spend a lovely time with your families, making memories to be treasured.

Have a wonderful weekend,

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

Headteacher

## Extreme Weather Warnings



Next week, there are amber weather warnings in place for extreme heat. While we often wish that we could see the sun a bit more, this is obviously extreme! We will do everything we can do to minimise risk to the children, including ventilation and hydration. Please ensure that you put sunscreen on your children before school and send a hat and water bottle with them. If they need to reapply during the day, please send sunscreen into school, labelled up with the child's name.

Depending on how we find it next week, we may take the decision to keep the children in at lunchtime rather than letting them play out.

We have decided to postpone the Redwoods' Daily Mile with parents on Monday. This will now take place on Thursday afternoon at 2:45pm.

The Great Oaks' trip to the park will still go ahead (at the moment) as they will be walking through the shaded woods and there is shade available at the park. As well as this we are able to use the Ryburn United Football Club Facilities for lunch and shade should we need it. We will obviously review nearer the time and if we don't feel it safe, we will change this.

As always, a sensible and measured approach must and will be taken - the safety and welfare of the children must come first.

## PTFA Update

A huge thank you to all of our children (and parents, for their part they played!) for Break the Rules day. Honestly, the effort that some of you went to was phenomenal and the children had such a great day. As well as having fun, you raised a fantastic **£330.85!** That's just amazing, well done!

As well as that, we have had the return of School Discos! The Reception and Key Stage One event on Wednesday was just fantastic – so much fun and in the words of one little one – “Best...Day...Ever!” These children have never had a disco at school before, so what a great experience! The Key Stage Two one tonight is sure to be a great event too. A massive thank you, as always, to our dedicated PTFA who work so hard for these events, without them it wouldn't happen! Such an amazing group of people! We will update with funds raised next week.

## Ripponden Children's Day

Well done to all of the children who participated in the Ripponden Children's Day. The children said it was a lovely day.

Not only was it a lovely day, but it was a competitive one too. Our children represented our school beautifully and we only went and won! That makes us unbeaten for 12 years! Louisa, from the committee came into school to present our shield and £100 prize money. We will be tasking the School Council with making a plan of how to spend this in the new year. #TeamRipponden!



## DanTastic Knights and Castle Workshop

On Tuesday of this week, we had DanTastic in school for a Knights and Castles workshop for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This was absolutely super – so much information and so many artefacts! The children were engrossed, especially when they were talking about bodily functions! This was a great experience for the children and while it is not the same as going out on a trip, it was so high quality and such good value for money!



## Nurture Group

We made biscuits!

The last Nurture group session of the school year took place on Tuesday, and we made biscuits!

It was Evie's birthday the weekend before and the Nurture group like nothing better than celebrating an event.

The group all decorated the biscuits with icing, chocolate buttons, chosen by Evie and also sprinkles and jam. A biscuit for each member of Evie's class was made and shared later in the day.

Group photographs were taken, and the children were asked to give one word to describe what the Nurture group meant to them. Some of the replies were - lovely, fun, creative and my favourite word was safe.



## Open Day

Thank you to all of the parents who were able to come into school on Monday afternoon for our open house. It was lovely to see so many. We have had some feedback from this and the main message was that it was so good to be back in school and to see where their children spend their days.

Acting on some of the feedback, we will be offering open events but different over the year. Some parents were expecting to take part in lessons, some were expecting to sit and have a look at their books – and to be honest, this is our fault for not making it clearer to set expectations, so apologies for this.

We will be changing these next year, with a clear agenda – so some of them will be coming in and watching a specific lesson and others will be coming and having a look at work with the children. We will inform you with lots of advance notice as to what the focus of the session is. We will also change the days and times around to try and meet the needs of all parents. We are very conscious of working parents (as the majority of staff are themselves!) so if you can come to anything, great, if you can't, please don't worry.

I have said it a number of times, but to say it again.... we are really keen to have parents and carers in for open events, workshops and meetings, but we want to offer what you actually want. If you feel there is something you would benefit from, please let us know. We are planning 2022/23 already!



### **Superstar Elsie**

We all know Elsie is a superb athlete...well she's been at it again! She represented our school at the British Schools Cycling Association & Yorkshire Regional Circuit Race. Elsie came in a fantastic second! Well done, Elsie, what a super achievement and thank you for being such a fabulous ambassador for our school.



### **Daily Mile with Parents**

We have had Daily Miles with parents this week! It was definitely a participation event! Thanks to all who came!



### **Science Week**

This week has been science week. We started the week with a STEM ambassador, John who is a metaphysicist, who led assembly on Monday about the Earth and Space. Every class has then taken an aspect of science and completed different activities around it. We have had volcanoes, animals, habitats, electricity, chemical reactions plus many more. The children have conducted experiments and were working very scientifically, they have looked at theories and chemical formulas and they have written biographies of famous scientists, plus many more activities. All of this work is being collated and will be made into booklets, that will go on display in school. We hope you will be able to see them in the Autumn term.



### Penny for them club

During the last few weeks the Penny For Them club has enjoyed silly games. From musical statues to the Hokey Cokey! We even challenged a school in Filey to Silent Ball!

Mrs Holmes' friend, a teacher in Filey, taught her the rules of this very quiet game. Mrs Holmes wasn't sure if the club members were up to the challenge of the game, but they surprised her and excelled!

The rules are very simple. Spread out, no talking or noises and the ball is passed around. If somebody makes a noise or if there is an inappropriate throw the person sits to the side. Well, the children quickly realised body language and eye contact is the key! Fourteen minutes later Mrs Holmes paused the game. We beat Filey by five minutes!

Mrs Holmes noticed that after the silly games sessions all of the children left with a spring in their step and all said they had really loved the club, which was so nice to hear. The children all received a badge from Mrs Holmes to wish them all a happy Summer.



### *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.***

#### **July**

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Meeting
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Redwoods Production of The Lion King 1.30pm & 7pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	R/KS1 end of year assembly – 9.15am KS2 end of year assembly – 2.15pm Y6 Daily Mile with parents – 2.45pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 1.30pm School closes for summer
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Busy Bees open all summer – please contact to book

#### **September**

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher training day, Busy Bees open, please contact to book
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens to children



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*Growing Together, Reaching for the Sky*