



Ripponden J&I News

Friday 11th March 2022

Dear parents/carers,

We have been back to school following half term and it's already been a busy start! This newsletter is full with some of the exciting things we have been up to.

While the official Covid restrictions are easing, we are approaching with a little caution. We have been made aware of a few 'clusters' of positive cases within the community and the last thing we want now is to put the school community at risk by getting rid of restrictions in their entirety just yet. Throughout the whole pandemic, we have made decisions based on protecting everyone as much as possible and while there is a definite light at the end of the tunnel, we are taking steps one at a time. We are having whole key stage assemblies as of last week, though, which has been lovely and we even had our first singing assembly in 2 years! It was wonderful and did make me a little emotional!

I will, as always keep you posted with changes and developments and we sincerely hope that we can continue to make these small steps, in order to get back to 'normal' really soon!

Have a lovely weekend,

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

Headteacher

Parent Consultations

You should have received an email regarding booking a slot for parent consultations this week. As per above, we have decided to hold these virtually again due to the clusters of positive cases in the community. We are offering a day time and an after-school slot via Zoom, or if you would prefer a telephone call, that can be arranged, please just let the office staff know.

We are hoping that, as long as we don't see any further outbreaks that we will be able to 'open up' more after Easter. We are looking to hold an Open Afternoon, where parents can come into school, see the children in their classrooms, look at their work and informally chat with the class teachers. Pre-Covid, we had lots of opportunities like this to have families into school and we really miss this interaction. We are also very conscious that parents of the younger classes haven't been into school, so it is so important to open up, once it is safe to do so. We are also hoping that we will be able to invite parent of certificate winners into school to see them receive it in assembly too, just like we used to! Like I say – there is certainly a light at the end of the tunnel and we are all very excited to welcome our families back into school really soon!

World Book Day – 3rd March 2022

Wow! All I can say is wow! Your generosity has blown me away once again. When we decided to focus on books for World Book Day, I didn't expect the number of books to arrive that did! We are on first name terms with the Amazon delivery driver! Honestly, it is so wonderful to have so many new, high-quality texts arrive, to support us in our drive to have every child loving reading.

During World Book Day itself, classes spent time looking at and sharing books, talking about books, working through quizzes and anagrams about books – everything that it should be; not just dressing up. Thank you again, so much, for your support with this.

The Amazon Wishlist is still live, if you meant to buy a book but didn't. The link is here https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1YIGCDRG9XNIN?ref=wl_share We will continue to update you with developments in our reading areas, but in the meantime, here are pictures of the books you sent, as well as some children enjoying sharing books –



The Woodland Room

We have some very exciting news!!

Big plans are afoot to enhance the learning, wellbeing and community cohesion of our school with the creation of **The Woodland Room** - the name being given to the room at the heart of our school. It will be a reading room, a wellbeing space, a chill-out zone, a community space and a chance to amplify our great strides for our love of reading and wellbeing.

We have huge hopes for the feel of this space, however, funding for the room has become a challenge as grant application after grant application has been denied as we don't quite fit the brief to gain the necessary financial support.

This is where we hope our gorgeous community might be able to help.

We are seeking out new or gently used items to help us with our vision for the space. Members of staff are rolling up their sleeves, ready to get the painting underway, but we could really use the support of our fabulous community to help pull it all together with the donation of the items which will make the space come to life.

The following items, **in a woodland theme or in neutral colours**, would be REALLY helpful:

- throw cushions
- area rugs
- voile curtains
- a meeting table and chairs
- couch (though it does need to have the fire safety label still attached)
- bean bag chairs
- picture frames of various sizes/designs
- fake plants/greenery
- 2 lamps (standing or desk top)
- Bunting
- Fairy lights

If you are unsure if an item would fit the space - please send a photo to the office at office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk and we'll let you know if it's spot on.

All donations can start coming in beginning the week of 14th March.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support!

PTFA Update

The PTFA met this week and while it is a small group who met, they are small, but they are mighty!!

They have been coming up with some lovely and rather inventive ways to enhance the learning and enjoyment of the children and also raise some much-needed funds at the same time. They asked me to highlight a couple of events that are coming up in the next few weeks, although they will send further information out nearer the time too.

On Friday 25th March, they will be holding a Mother's Day Sale, where children will be able to come and buy a gift for significant women in their lives – Mum, Step Mum, Grandma etc.

Over the Easter holidays, they will be launching the 2022 sponsor challenge. This is very much a personal challenge for the children, but as always – watch this space, as the PTFA will send more information out in the next couple of weeks. Huge thanks to our dedicated PTFA.

Cross Country West Yorkshire Finals

On Wednesday of this week, I had the privilege of taking some boys who had qualified in the Calderdale finals to Temple Newsham in Leeds for the West Yorkshire finals of cross country.

These boys (Kian, Florian, Jude, Ted and Stanley – Year 4 boys' team and Ethan – Year 6 individual runner) did us absolutely proud. Their sportsmanship was to be admired, they cheered each other and other children on, clapped everyone crossing the line. They were an absolute pleasure to take (even if they didn't stop talking for breath in the car!)

They gave their all and we couldn't be prouder of them! Ethan also came in 8th fastest of all Year 6 boys in West Yorkshire, meaning that he has qualified for the national final in Leicester.

A huge well done to all the boys! Fantastic!



Penny for them

The Penny For Them club welcomed a guest today to join in our fun activity.

Mr Fisher, Chair of Governors here at Ripponden, was with us bright and early, filled with enthusiasm and curiosity as to what we do every Thursday morning at 8.15 in the hall!

The children from Years 2 to 6 started as usual with our rocking circle to bring everybody together and wake us all up! The theme this week was anger and we met Bertha the balloon. Bertha was a young teenager who grew angrier and angrier about events and situations.

Each time something happened to make Bertha cross, Mrs Holmes blew into the balloon. From her parents shouting at her to get out of bed when she wanted a sleep in, to her annoying brother Max (who we met last week) hogging the bathroom, Bertha had an eventful morning with lots of mishaps that made her cross.

Bertha then forgot her school tie and eventually she popped when Mr Smith, the teacher who always checked uniform, told her off!

Next, we looked at another Bertha. This Bertha had the same events and situations happen with Mrs Holmes blowing her up each time.

Only this time the children lined up with Mr Fisher and Mrs Dales and said something nice to Bertha to calm her down. Each nice comment made Bertha deflate a little until she was completely deflated (with a funny noise!).

The group spoke about how Bertha was now empty of anger as people had been kind and helped her calm down.

We then gave our anger a colour and pointed to where we felt the anger. The children and adults moved to the others who were pointing to the same place and talked about how their anger felt.

Mrs Holmes explained to the children that feeling angry is a very normal emotion, but learning to deal with it properly is very important.

The group finished as always with a dance. This week it was the Macarena. Mr Fisher soon learnt the moves and joined in with the whole group.

Next week the Penny For Them group will draw their anger, what makes them angry and decide what we can do to help us all to calm down!

Chestnuts Treat

As Chestnuts had earned their treat, they chose an active session in the hall, followed by (finally!) watching Encanto, snuggling up in the classroom together. Teamwork at its finest!



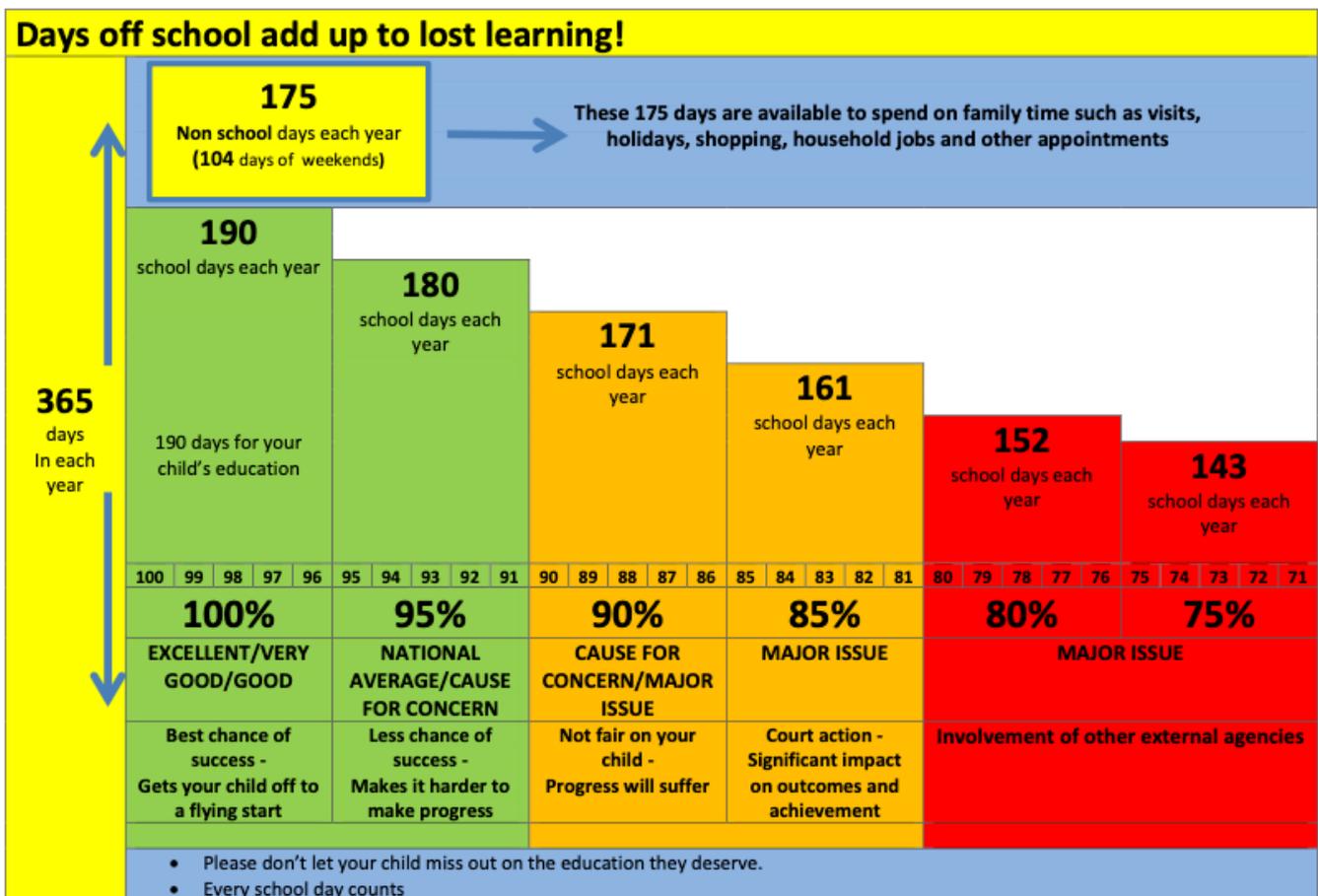
'Hands on' Science in Redwoods

Year 6 have been looking at the structure and function of the heart in their science lessons. In order to make this learning more memorable and to make it stick in their minds, they were investigating the hearts of lambs. The children, while some were a little apprehensive at first, were very mature and could see the link between the diagrams on the board and the real thing. I think they will certainly remember this lesson for a while!



Attendance

As you are aware, one of my statutory duties is to monitor the attendance of each child in school. I wrote out to parents where attendance was beginning to be a cause for concern at the start of this year and I will be repeating this as we approach Easter. I have, however, had an influx of holiday request forms in the last couple of weeks. I am unable to authorise holidays and so all requests have been denied. While I am sympathetic to requests, the diagram below shows the impact of days off for holidays. I would urge parents to refrain from term time holidays.



Science/Gardening Resource Plea

As part of our science focus at Ripponden we will be having a science week in the summer. Details of this will be sent out nearer the time. We are also wanting to establish a home growing initiative with the help of Busy Bees. The aim is to grow some of our own fruit and vegetables. We want the children to understand where food comes from and how it is grown. They will all be involved at some stage - preparation, planting, weeding, watering, harvesting and selling. These organic items will then be available to purchase later in the year. All profits will go back into the fund to further improve our gardening venture next year.

In order to get us up and running we are appealing for donations of any spare gardening items that may be in your way at home. This could include tools, large containers, leftover compost/soil bags, seeds/seedlings and vegetable feed, saucers for trays etc. The more equipment and plants we have, the more involved the children can be. If you have any items like this that you would like to donate, please bring them to the office. Many thanks for your support.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel – 21st March-1st April

Dear Parents/Carers,

Get set... we're taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2022 (the new name for Big Pedal), the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 21 March to 1 April. It's free and we would love everyone to be involved.

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

If your child chooses to scoot to school, we do now have some storage facilities but as these are limited, these will be available on a rota basis for each class (please see below). Although we are starting the rota during the Big Walk and Wheel event, it will continue throughout the school year. If your child chooses to cycle, I'm afraid that we are unable to store the bikes during the day.

Including everyone

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. We know there may be things which make it more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. If you want to discuss more about your child(ren)'s specific needs, please contact Mrs Lomas and we will make sure that there is a way for your child to take part.

Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels.

Plus, there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

Useful resources

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide packed with advice, games and challenges to help you have hassle-free cycle, walk or scoot to school.

[Download your free family guide](#) using this link:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-family-guide/>

For more information about the event go to www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk. Enjoy the challenge!

Best wishes

Mrs J Lomas

Branch Out Awards

Not Giving Up!

Chestnuts – Ivy N
Willows – Stanley A
Maples – Ruudy B
Redwoods – Brook A

Being Enthusiastic

Chestnuts – Effie A
Willows – Ted B
Maples – Miles A
Redwoods – Betsy C-F & Elsie H

Showing Respect

Chestnuts – Johanna H
Willows – Jessica L
Maples – Evie W

Being Kind and Caring

Chestnuts – Arthur B-C
Willows – Mollie R
Maples – Blake S
Redwoods – Holly B

Making Good Choices

Chestnuts – Tommy G
Willows – Jacob P
Maples – Abdul K
Redwoods – Hollie S

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.

March

Friday 18th Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
W/c Monday 21st Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel – 2 weeks
Friday 25th Mother's Day Sale ***More information to follow***
Tuesday 29th Full Governing Meeting

April

Friday 1st KS2 celebration assembly
Monday 4th PTFA Meeting – all welcome
Friday 8th Close for Easter
2022 Challenge Sponsored Event ***More details to follow***
W/c 11th Busy Bees open all but Good Friday and Easter Monday – please contact to book
Monday 25th Reopen for the summer term

May

Monday 2nd May Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 3rd School reopen
Friday 6th Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
W/C Monday 9th KS2 SATs Week
Friday 20th KS2 celebration assembly
Tuesday 24th Full Governing Meeting
Wednesday 25th Young Voices – Manchester Arena
Friday 27th Jubilee Celebration Day
School closes for half term

June

Monday 6th School Closed – Queen's Jubilee
Tuesday 7th School reopens
Assessment window for Y4 multiplication check and Y1 phonics

Friday 17th
Monday 20th

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Year 6 residential to Langdale all week

July

Friday 1st
Tuesday 5th
Tuesday 19th
Friday 22nd

KS2 celebration assembly
KS2 SATs results due
Full Governing Meeting
School closes for summer



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Growing Together, Reaching for the Sky