



# Ripponden J&I News

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear parents/carers,

Happy New Year!

For those of you I haven't seen in person, I hope you all had a wonderful and peaceful Christmas.

We are back at school now and raring to go. Staff worked really hard before Christmas marking all of the end of term assessments and forming plans to best support the children. We are also having lots of little groups to support your children as best as we can.

The Omicron variant seems to be rife in the area, indeed in the country at the moment and the guidance is rather limited. Please be vigilant and if in doubt, email [office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk) or call/text the school mobile on 07399 326030 and we can give you the most up to date advice that we have.

On that note, we will always do everything we can to keep school and classes open (unless directed otherwise). However, we are seeing increasing staff absences, so it may be that other adults are teaching in your child's class, but as much as possible, we will only use adults that are familiar to the children in these cases. As a very last resort, we would have to close classes for operational reasons. This would be done in association with the local authority and again, as a very last resort.

Here is hoping it doesn't come to that though!

Have a lovely weekend,

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

Headteacher

## Staffing Changes

As you know, Mr Callister has been poorly and has not returned since the summer. It is with sadness that I announce that Steve has resigned from his post, so he can concentrate on getting fully better. We will miss him, as will the children but we hope he will get back to his full self really soon, Good luck Steve.

Miss Fawcett is also leaving at the end of next week. Hilary has been with us for many years, beginning her time with us here as a 1:1 support assistant, she has also worked as teaching assistant and a cover supervisor. Hilary is moving back to Holmfirth to be with family. I am sure they will love her being home, but I know that we will miss having her in school, with her super, organizational skills and her attention to detail when working with groups. I wish you all the very best of luck for the future Hilary.

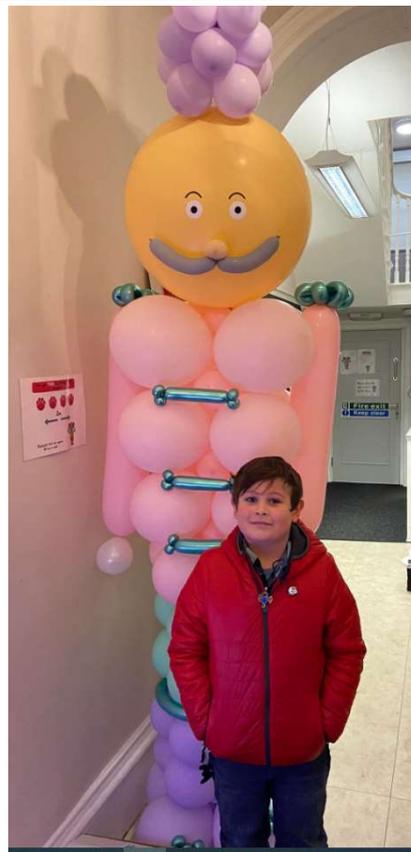
### **Super Star Seth**

In our last newsletter, I wrote asking if anyone wanted to support Seth in his Christmas Mission to raise money to buy presents for children who had to spend Christmas in hospital. This has a very personal meaning to Seth, as he had spent previous time in hospital.

Seth would like to say a massive big thank you to everyone that has supported him in his Christmas Mission to raise money for Children at Leeds General Infirmary Oncology ward/Clinic.

Seth had managed to Raise a huge £465 as well as donating lots of Scentsy toys and buddies. Seth and his mum visited Candlelighters Leeds to drop off the money and toys just before Christmas.

What a fantastic achievement and a fantastic little boy. Well done Seth, we are all very proud of you!



### **Remote Education**

Just a reminder that if children are isolating, then all work is put on Google Classrooms for the children to access, if they are well enough. Please remember that it takes time for the teachers to put work on there and then mark and give feedback to these. A reminder and a plea, really. If your child is well enough, please do encourage them to access this work as not only will it allow them to keep up with their peers, their teacher has had to do two lots of work preparing for face-to-face and remote learning and it is a little disheartening to see that it has not been accessed (especially when parents have specifically requested it!) Thank you.

### **School uniform**

As we have come back to school, it has been noted that there are a number of children not in correct uniform. Please can I remind you that joggers should not be worn, they should be plain black, as should shoes. Trainers are not appropriate. Plain black school shoes should be worn. In addition to this, there have been a number of girls with nail varnish. I have let this go this week as it has been the holidays. Please make sure this is removed or they will be asked to remove it in school. Thanks for your understanding.

### **Exciting Phonics and Early Reading News!**

We are really excited to share some exciting news with you about how we will be teaching phonics and early reading skills at Ripponden.

Starting in the new year, we will be using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds scheme which has recently been validated by the DfE. We have taken delivery of our brand-new reading books and for those of you who love book post (like Mrs Kenny) you will understand that this definitely makes it feel like Christmas!!!

There are multiple copies of over 100 new reading book titles as well as lovely classroom resources like flashcards and posters.

All our staff took part in training involved in delivering the scheme on Wednesday and are eager to see the impact on our young learners.

We are confident that this scheme will help us to become even better equipped to help all our children develop the reading skills they need to succeed in life. The way the reading scheme works (mainly up to Y3/4) will change slightly and we will send out lots more information about this in the next few weeks and will be arranging a parents' workshop too.

Meanwhile if you see Mrs Bamforth, Mrs Kenny and all the other staff smiling or carrying big boxes you will now know why!



### **🧡Mental Health and Well-being -Save the Dates🧡**

Just a quick one to inform you of some upcoming MH&WB dates to be aware of:

1) Children's Mental Health Week starts on Monday 7th February and the theme is 'Growing Together'. More details to follow.

2) Dress to Express Day - Wednesday 9th February

A bit of a tradition in Children's Mental Health Week, pupils come to school in non-uniform dressed up in a way that really expresses who they are - it was a real hit during our virtual lessons last year! All donations go towards Place2Be - the charity that run Children's Mental Health Week.

3) Mental Health and Well-being Working Party Meeting - Wednesday 16th February at 7pm  
After a successful first meeting, the next meeting is on Wednesday 16th February at 7pm at Hollins Mill in Sowerby Bridge. We hope you can join us! All are welcome!

## Clubs

Once again, we have a wide range of clubs on offer – see the table below.

A new club for this time is a morning ‘drop in’ – so no need to book your place – just turn up. This club is called ‘Penny for Them’ and will be run by Mrs Holmes, one of our very experienced support assistants. This is open to children from Year 2 to 6 from 8.15am on Thursday mornings in the hall. The sessions will focus on the thoughts and feelings of the children and sharing these with others to develop language, vocabulary and understanding of empathy and also sharing experiences with each other and discussing these experiences. Some weeks may have a theme to tie in with something that is happening out in the big, wide world!

As a reward each child who attends receives a shiny penny for their thoughts. Once a child has collected and kept 5 pennies safe they receive a certificate.

Bronze, silver and gold certificates can also be earned for good contribution, showing kindness in the group, supporting a peer and ultimately being kind and caring – definitely embodying our Branch Out Basics!

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Before School</b>			Choir – 8am Y4/5/6 Hall Mrs Hamilton	Penny for Them 8.15am Y2-6 Hall Mrs Holmes	Chess Club KS2 Mrs Bolton
<b>Lunch Time</b>	Monday Mindful Club KS1 Mrs Hutchinson		Times Tables Club Year 4 Mr Baldwin		Board Games Club KS1 Ms Gilmartin  Glockenspiels Y3/4 Mrs Hamilton
<b>After School</b>	Gymnastics Y3/4 Mrs Whitaker  Netball Y5/6 Mrs Lomas	Multisports Y3/4 Mrs Whiteley	Story Club KS1 Mrs Kenny	Multisports Y1/2 Mrs Whiteley	

## *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.***

### **January 2022**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

KS2 celebration assembly

## February

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Meeting
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dress to Express Day
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

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*Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all*