



Ripponden J&I News

Friday 1st July 2022

Dear parents/carers,

These last two weeks have been full-on and busy but brilliant! It has felt like we are back to normal and have had so many parents in for different events, just like old times!

We had our first whole-school sports day for 2 years and it was lovely! Mrs Lomas, who always works hard, came off residential with Redwoods and organised and planned the whole sports day and race days – so huge thank you to her and also the Year 6 play leaders who helped, guided and supported the groups. Thank you to the PTFA for providing ice pops for all the children after the sports day – what a treat!

It was unfortunate that we had to postpone a couple of the race days due to the British weather, but thanks you for your understanding that the safety of our children must come first, and with the field being on a slope, it can become slippery quickly. We just have Little Acorns' left to do on Monday. Certificates for Sports Day and Races Days are being prepared for the end of year assemblies.

We also had our Annual (-2) Musical Soiree on Thursday evening, which was just superb. It was amazing to get back to the children performing again. As I said on the evening, music was one of the things that had to be paused to some degree during lockdowns and the bubbles, as we were unable to sing for what seemed like the longest time. Schools should be full of music and singing, so to hear the children singing and playing instruments again was just wonderful. Thank you to everyone who came and gave the children the much needed audience to perform to. It is nerve-racking performing in front of an audience but you were very supportive, so thank you! A huge thank you, too, for digging deep to support our Young Voices trip and music in school. With the sale of programmes, drinks and donations, we managed to raise just over £200 profit – which is incredible – thank you! A huge thank you to Mrs Hamilton for this event and for championing music in school. She works tirelessly to ensure that music is accessible to all, fun, enjoyable and organises the soiree and Young Voices every time, so thank you Mrs Hamilton!

We have further opportunities for families to join us in the last few weeks of term. We have our 'Open House' on 11th July, where you can come in and see your child in their classroom, look at their books and speak to their teachers, Daily Mile challenge with parents and we have the end of year assemblies. Like I said on the previous newsletter, we are looking at ways to engage with parents next academic year, now that we can, and would welcome any suggestions of what you would like to see us provide – please email in with any suggestions.

Have a wonderful weekend,

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

Headteacher

Transition Day(s) and arrangements for next year

Transition Days are a bit different this year. Calderdale usually publish a whole authority-wide transition day, but then different schools have changed theirs. This has made it difficult for us as there are different days for different schools and the day that the school most of our children go to has changed it to, we have two of our classes out on a trip! That means that we have two different transition days.

Transition day for **Reception to Year 4 is Wednesday 6th July** and for **Year 5 and 6 it is Friday 8th July**. Children in the current Year 6 go to their new school directly on transition day. Everyone else comes to school as normal, but spends the day with their new teacher(s).

There are some staff who have release time for specific activities, such as management for the assistant headteachers and SENCO release time for our SENCO. There are also class share arrangements for some. In addition to this, every teacher is entitled to 10% of their working week for PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment). These activities are covered weekly by one of our highly trained and experienced HLTAs/Cover Supervisors. This is a regular arrangement and unless because of sickness, this will not change, allowing for the consistency that we know is so important.

The staffing for next year is as follows:

Current Class	New Class	Year Group	Teacher(s)
Little Acorns	Saplings	Year 1	Ms Gilmartin Mrs Whiteley (Wed)
Saplings	Great Oaks	Year 2	Mrs Hutchinson Mrs Judd (Fri)
Great Oaks	Chestnuts	Year 3	Mrs Hamilton Mr Hanlon (Fri)
Chestnuts	Willows	Year 4	Mr Baldwin
Willows	Maples	Year 5	Mrs Whitaker (M-W) Mrs Bolton (Th-F)
Maples	Redwoods	Year 6	Mrs Lomas

We are fortunate that all of the teachers are existing members of staff and are very confident in their year groups, meaning that we can hit the ground running in September with super teaching and learning from the off!

Open House – Monday 11th July at 2.15pm

As we are now able to have parents and visitors back in school, we are delighted to invite you into school for an 'Open House' on 11th July at 2.15pm. This is an opportunity to come into school and see your child in their classroom, speak informally with their teachers, see their work and be part of their class. We would love to see as many of you as we can.

We are planning a series of workshops on different aspects of school life in the autumn term and will send out information about these in due course. If you have anything you would like us to offer, please let us know! We are so happy to be able to have parents in again, so would want to offer what is of value to you as parents.

Parental Survey

Thank you to those who have completed the parental survey. If you haven't had chance yet, please click here to complete it -

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=urQs3c-rmEmigJStcz9U8dWznFnwGX50twscylf-TW1UOFg4T1pWUDBaVVEyUjk5T1dBR1RMWTJYSi4u>

Getting as many responses as we can gives us a clear picture of what we are doing well and what should be our priorities for the future. The survey will close on Friday 8th July after 2 weeks, allowing us to analyse and report the findings to you. Many thanks.

Daily Mile Challenge

For this half term we have challenged our children to see if they can improve on the number of laps they can run in 10 minutes. At the beginning of the half term each class counted up the total number of laps completed and this will be repeated at the end of the half term before the summer holidays. There will be a prize for the class who make the biggest improvement.

For the last session where we will count the laps, we are inviting parents to join in with the running - please note that this is a joining in session not a spectating session!! It would be great to see you joining in with the children and I'm sure they would love it.

Please see below for each classes date:

- Tuesday 12th July: Maples (Y5) at 2.45pm
- Wednesday 13th July: Great Oaks (Y2) at 2.30pm
Chestnuts (Y3) at 2.45pm
- Thursday 14th July: Saplings (Y1) at 2.45pm
- Friday 15th July: Little Acorns (R) at 2.30pm
Willows (Y4) at 2.45pm
- Monday 18th July: Redwoods (Y6) at 2.45pm



Top in Calderdale, fourth in West Yorkshire!

Our wonderful Willows Cricket Team qualified for the West Yorkshire finals a few weeks ago and the final was in Leeds on 21st June.

We topped our group in the heats and were through to the semi-finals! However, we were beaten and ended up 4th in the whole of West Yorkshire – top in Calderdale! What an achievement! We are so proud of you guys, not only playing beautifully, but such top sportsmanship too.

A huge thank you to our parents, too, who rallied around and organised lifts. Thank you so much, without you, we would have been unable to go.

Car park reminders

A reminder please to walk on the path behind the cars and not through the car park. There have been a number of occasions in the last couple of weeks where staff have had to slam on their breaks to avoid hitting parents and children walking through. Many thanks.

Author Visit – Sophie Edgar

The pupils of Ripponden J&I School had the absolute joy of welcoming local author Sophie Edgar to our school. Sophie spoke about her desire to be an author from the age of 6 and shared her very first story she wrote in primary school with the children at assembly - but she also said it took her another 34 years before she published her first book! The pupils learned that to be a good author you need to read a LOT, practise your writing, do your research and that they shouldn't be afraid to be inspired by the world around them. Sophie then spent the rest of the morning running workshops in Years 1 and 2 and set the children a writing competition with a wonderful prize for the winner - their very own copy of her book: When Mr Bumble Came to Stay. Our time with Sophie was finished with the icing on the cake of a signed copy of her book donated to our school library. All of the pupils had a wonderful time. Thank you for visiting us, Sophie!



Swapsie Club

Card swapsie club has proven to be a great success. The children are learning lots of social skills in a calm environment.

Mrs Holmes oversees the activity but the children organise the swaps and are a real credit to themselves.

The last swapsie club for this term will be Tuesday 12th July until the World Cup cards are in the shops! Year two and above welcome!



Redwoods' Trip to The Lake District

Last weeks was Redwoods' trip to The Lake District and what a fantastic week they had! The weather was fabulous, which always helps but they had a fun filled week of walking, hiking, kayaking, gorge scrambling, archery, bush craft and many more! This is what memories are made of and they had such a good time together. As always, thanks to the staff who are there, on call 24/7 all week, Mrs Lomas, Mrs Thompson and James. Here are a few of the hundreds of photos that were taken:



A few photos from Sports Day and Race Days





PTFA Summer Discos

As previously advertised, please see the flyer for the PTFA summer discos on Wednesday 13th July for Reception and Key Stage 1 and Friday 15th July for Key Stage 2.

Discos are on 3-4pm and tickets are £3 per child, which includes a snack, drink, disco and party games.

Children can bring in their party clothes at get changed before the disco.

It's sure to be a fun party for all!

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 5 th	KS2 SATs results due
Wednesday 6 th	Transition Day for R-Y4
Friday 8 th	Y5/6 Transition Day
	Y3/4 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Monday 11 th	Open Afternoon – 2.15pm
Tuesday 12 th	R/Y1/Y2 – Castles and Knights Workshop
	Y5 Daily Mile with parents – 2.45pm
Wednesday 13 th	Y2 Daily Mile with parents – 2.30pm
	Y3 Daily Mile with parents – 2.45pm
	R/KS1 PTFA Disco 3-4pm
Thursday 14 th	Y1 Daily Mile with parents – 2.45pm
Friday 15 th	Reception Daily Mile with parents – 2.30pm
	Y4 Daily Mile with parents – 2.45pm
	Reports out
	KS2 PTFA Disco 3-4pm
Monday 18 th	Y6 Daily Mile with parents – 2.45pm

Tuesday 19th
Wednesday 20th
Thursday 21st

Full Governing Meeting
Redwoods Production of The Lion King 2pm & 7pm
R/KS1 end of year assembly – 9.15am
KS2 end of year assembly – 2.15pm
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 1.30pm
School closes for summer
Busy Bees open all summer – please contact to book

Friday 22nd

Monday 25th

September

Monday 5th
Tuesday 6th

Teacher training day, Busy Bees open, please contact to book
School reopens to children



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Growing Together, Reaching for the Sky