

Welcome Back!

September 2024



We are so excited to welcome all the children back to school this week – Year 1-6 tomorrow, Tuesday 3rd September and Reception staggered over the week. There have been lots of developments over the summer and we are excited to share them with you!

We had an excellent year last year, with some amazing outcomes for our children in all areas, some wonderful experiences and Platinum Status Healthy School Award! We are looking forward to building on these successes this year. I will send out an annual calendar this week with already planned in diary dates, so we can give you as much notice as possible for events.

The kitchen is back up and running!

Hoorah! After months of being out of action and serving picnic-style food, I am delighted to share that the first phase of the work in the kitchen is complete, and we will be serving hot food again from when the children are back! Huge thanks to you all for your patience while we had the issues sorted and a massive thank you to Damian for coordinating the work over the summer. Phase 2 will be taking place over October half term, when the canopies and ovens will be replaced. Hot meals will resume from tomorrow and we will send out the new menu as soon as possible.

Attendance and punctuality

I sent out a leaflet at the end of last year regarding changes to school attendance. I attach it to this email for your reference again. The government are really clamping down on attendance and this will be closely monitored.

Hand in hand with this is punctuality – at both ends of the day. It is really important that children are in school on time, as learning starts the moment they get in the door. Repeated lateness in the mornings means that children are missing learning time which is often targeted at their individual needs at this time. It also really helps to settle children if they are in school with their friends, as latecomers can often become unsettled.

Lateness at pick up is really important too. Everyone can be late on occasion, and this is understandable – please ring if you are going to be late, as unexplained lateness often causes upset. However, persistent lateness was becoming a problem in some instances last year. School finishes at 3.10pm

for KS1 and 3.15pm for KS2 (3pm leading to 3.05pm for Reception) and the expectation is that parents are there to collect at those times, or have made alternative arrangements, such as Busy Bees or a child minder. Repeated lateness in picking up children after school may result in children being taken to Busy Bees (rather than sitting with office staff as they currently do) and **parents will therefore be charged for this session**. These charges are: £8 for the first child plus £7.50 for any siblings. We do not have staffing capacity to look after children beyond these times, other than in Busy Bees, as teachers often have meetings or clubs after school. Thank you for your understanding.

After school arrangements

While on pick-ups – when you do pick up your children, please exit the playground as quickly as possible. We are not insured for children to play on the equipment or play football without school supervision and we need to close the gates in a timely manner, so Busy Bees or clubs can use the yard. We are so lucky in Ripponden, that we have lovely parks. If your children want to continue playing (and parents want to have a chat!) please use the parks.

Welcome to your new classes

Every year, we do a welcome to your new class information evening and these are helpful for parents to meet their new teacher, find out about routines, expectations and what to expect in the new class. The dates/times for these meetings are as follows:

Class	Teacher	Date	Time
Little Acorns Reception	Mrs Kenny	Tuesday 10 th September	3.15pm
Saplings Year 1	Miss Wisniewski	Wednesday 11 th September	3.25pm
Great Oaks Year 2	Miss Smith	Monday 9 th September	3.25pm
Chestnuts Year 3	Mrs Hamilton	Wednesday 11 th September	3.25pm
Willows Year 4	Mr Baldwin	Tuesday 10 th September	4pm
Maples Year 5	Mrs Whitaker	Tuesday 10 th September	3.25pm
Redwoods Year 6	Mrs Lomas	Monday 9 th September	3.25pm

It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.

Clubs

We are just working out a timetable for some lovely extra-curricular clubs. These will be sent out in due course and bookable on the app. They will be a on a first-come, first-served basis. Clubs will start on w/c 16th September.

Curriculum

We will be sending out information at the end of the week about what your child will be learning this half term. This will also go on the class web pages.

Here's looking forward to a super, successful year together and thank you all for your support.

Kindest regards

Lorraine Bamforth
Headteacher