



Ripponden Junior and Infant School

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“Growing Together, Reaching for the Sky”

Headteacher: Mrs L Bamforth

4th September 2022

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! I sincerely hope you have all had a wonderful summer, making lots of memories with your families and friends and that you are all raring to go into the new school year.

I thought it a good idea to write out before the start of term with some reminders and information that you may need before starting back. As always, if there is anything that you are unsure of, please get in touch and we will do our best to help.

School Times

As a reminder, the times of the school day have altered slightly. In the morning, Little Acorns go straight to the Bungalow gates, where one of the Reception staff will greet you and the children to go straight in at 8.45m. For Saplings to Redwoods, they come into the playground and filter into their areas from there. **The gates at the top and the side will be open at 8.40am and will close at 8.45am.** This time slot has reduced, allowing the children to get in and start learning quicker. Any child arriving after 8.45am will need to enter via the school office and will be classed as late. Below shows how the children filter into the school:

| Class | Year Group | Entry door |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Little Acorns | Reception | Bungalow |
| Saplings | Year 1 | Learning Zone 1 door – bottom of the steps |
| Great Oaks | Year 2 | Learning Zone 1 door – bottom of the steps |
| Chestnuts | Year 3 | Learning Zone 2 door – along the building |
| Willows | Year 4 | Learning Zone 2 door – along the building |
| Maples | Year 5 | Walk around the building and into the portacabin |
| Redwoods | Year 6 | Walk around the building and into the portacabin |



I will be on the playground (as I usually am!) and will direct the children and there will also be staff on the Learning Zone doors to help. When dropping children off, please don't feel that adults are not allowed into the playground. During Covid-times we tried to restrict adults mixing as much as possible, but this isn't the case anymore. Please feel free to come into the playground to drop your children off and come and speak to me if you need to. I am happy to pass messages on to class teachers too, as they are not out in the mornings, they are ready to receive their children and get straight on with learning.

The end of the day times have changed slightly too. **Reception and Key Stage 1 children (R-Y2) will now finish at 3.10pm and Key Stage 2 (Y3-Y6) will now finish at 3.15pm.** Little Acorns can be picked up straight from the Bungalow gate and all other children will be brought up to the playground by staff and handed over to adults. Please have patience with staff in the first couple of weeks as they get to know the children's adults. It is imperative that children are handed over safely and so in the early days this takes time.

Uniform

I am sure you have all got uniforms all ready for the start of term, but I have attached the uniform policy for your information. We believe that children who look the part, are smart and in uniform are more ready to learn. Please adhere to this policy. If you have any difficulties with uniform, please get in touch.

PE Kits

Please remember to send in PE kits on the first day and please leave them in school. We also need a pair of trainers to be left in school. The children will need these every day, as we do the daily mile in all weathers. Kits will be sent home every holiday to be washed and checked for size.

Lollipop Man

As you know, we have been without a Lollipop Man since Mr Callister had to resign his post. We are delighted to let you know that we have a new one, starting on Tuesday! Lee Abols will be crossing the children of Ripponden and I am sure you will join with me in welcoming him to the Ripponden Family and I thank him for keeping our children safe.

School Dinners

Unfortunately, due to the ever-increasing cost of food, energy and staffing, it has become necessary to increase the cost of school dinners. From 6th September, the cost of school dinners will be £2.20 per day or £11 per week. This is still excellent value for money for a 2-course, homecooked meal. For children in Reception to Year 2, these are free for everyone, but from Year 3 upwards they are to pay for, unless you qualify for Free School Meals. If you think this applies to you, please contact the office and we will be happy to help you. School dinners can be paid weekly, monthly, half termly or termly and straight into the school bank account is preferable. We do have a debt management policy, so



will not allow parents to get into debt with school dinners, but this is always handled with sensitivity. We do not, generally, send a bill or reminder for school dinners, as it is a straight £11 per week. If you would like to pay up front for the first half term it will be £74.80. When paying into the bank, please remember to use your child's name as a reference, so we can match the payment up.

Busy Bees

We are able to keep the costs of Busy Bees the same this academic year. There have been lots of emails into the office over the summer about Busy Bees requirements. The office staff don't work over the summer, so they will handle those on their return. Please be assured, though, that if you want your child to have a place, they will have a place. If you need any further clarification or need to check anything, please ask for Gemma in the office and she will be happy to help. We are just finalising plans for October half term and the first week in the Christmas holidays, if you need holiday clubs, so keep an eye out for that.

Parental involvement

Taking feedback from the parental survey in the summer, we are planning a series of events over the academic year for parents to get involved with and come into school. I will publish these in the upcoming newsletters, giving you plenty of notice. The first of these will be 'Welcome to Your New Class' information sessions. These are opportunities to come into your child's class, meet the teacher, find out any pertinent information etc. These have always been successful in the past (albeit virtually the last couple of years) but we are delighted that they will be face to face again. These will be w/c 12th September – exact times/dates for these to be sent out next week. Please don't worry if you are not able to come, we will put the powerpoint for each class on the webpages and as always, if you have any further questions, the teacher will be able to speak to you.

School starts at 8.40am on Tuesday 6th September and staggered for Reception.

We are really looking forward to another busy and successful year here at Ripponden and I look forward to working in partnership with our families for the best outcomes for all our children.

With kindest regards,

Lorraine Bamforth
Headteacher

