



Ripponden J&I News

Friday 12th November 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you had a wonderful half term holiday. We are now whizzing into the half term before Christmas – one that is always great fun – but very, very busy!

Since reopening after half term, I have been busy showing lots of prospective parents around and it has been wonderful being in and out of the classrooms, where children and adults are busy and purposeful but always with smiles on their faces! I have been, as I always am, so proud of the community that we foster here and the feedback from prospective parents has been so positive. We look forward to welcoming these children next September.

Our fabulous staff have been busy with lots of training, from first aid, to phonics, to curriculum design and everything between. It is so important to keep up to date with developments and innovation to provide the best education for our children. That is, and always will be, the most important thing to us here at Ripponden.

We look forward to sharing some wonderful activities with you in this newsletter and in the coming weeks and months.

With kindest regards,

LBamforth

Headteacher

Quiet moments of reflection in Little Acorns

Little Acorns have been learning about Diwali this week and made their own Diva lamps. We lit them today and had a minute of quiet reflection after watching parts of a Remembrance Service at the cenotaph in London. What a lovely moment to share with our youngest children!





Active Calderdale Schools

We are very proud to announce that we are a trailblazer school for Active Calderdale. This means that we are within the first batch of schools to take part in the initiative to get children more active in all aspects of the school day – not just in PE lessons or at playtimes, but trying to incorporate physical movement into lots of different lessons in innovative ways. The teachers had their first introductory training this week and are raring to go. We will keep you updated as we finalise action plans but we are really excited about how to make education active and fun!

Ripponden joins Twitter

Going hand in hand with the Active Calderdale initiative, we now have a Twitter account - @Rippondenschool. If you are on Twitter – follow us! The idea of the Twitter account is to be outward facing and to celebrate with the wider community just what a fabulous school this is with the wonderful activities and opportunities that we give our children. The Facebook Group is going to remain a closed group, for parents only and will continue to be used as a sharing, but reminder to parents platform – Twitter will be used as a celebratory platform. Along with the email and newsletter attached is an incredibly short questionnaire for parents – it should take no longer than 30 seconds. Please complete this – it is permission for using photos on Twitter. Mainly these will not have names on, just photographs of the children in action, but there may be a time if your child has done something particularly fabulous that we may say “Little Johnny excels in triple jump” – there are two different permission questions on there, please complete so we can tweet with some super examples of Ripponden in action! If you don’t give permission, this is fine and children won’t appear on here without this permission. Many thanks.



Children in Need

We are, once again supporting Children in Need. We have a range of Pudsey merchandise on sale and we are also having a dress down day, next Friday (19th) where the children can come to school in non-uniform – can be spots or yellow or whatever they like in exchange for a donation to this charity. Show your spots and let’s raise lots!

Christmas Activities

We are rapidly approaching Christmas, which is always a wonderful time in school. We will be doing lots of the usual things we do in school, but given the high proportions of Covid still in the area and the uncertainty surrounding the coming weeks, we are changing the way we approach some of these things. We will be doing a form of nativity and carol singing, but these will be recorded. We are still being asked to limit groups coming together and so rather than putting our school community at risk before Christmas, we will be filming these activities and uploading to our YouTube channel, as we did last year. I understand that parents may be disappointed at not being able to see it ‘live’ but I know you will understand that I do not want to put anyone at risk and potentially expose children, staff, parents and the wider community to illness and/or isolation just before Christmas. We will still have the magic of Christmas here at Ripponden!

Mental Health and Well-being: Year 5 & 6 Parent Workshop

Date for your diary: 1st December at 4pm

OpenMinds Calderdale, through the Transition Project, will be hosting an online parent workshop on Supporting and Understanding Anxiety in Children. Links to the meeting will be published the week prior to the event. We are really hoping for a fabulous turn out as anxiety is fast becoming a reality for many children at the moment due to the last couple of tumultuous years.

A workshop for parents for the remainder of the school is in the works and will take place in November. Please watch this space for further details.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Virtual Parent Workshop - All Year Groups

Calling all parents - Save the date!

24th November from 6pm-7pm.

As promised, we have arranged a Mental Health and Wellbeing virtual workshop for parents on supporting your children with anxiety, resilience, and social media for ALL year groups (in addition to the Y5&6 session on 1/12/21).

This session will be led by Kirsty Longbottom, a mental health practitioner with OpenMinds, who has run a few in-school workshops with our children over the last couple of years and she's absolutely brilliant.

Links will be published here in the newsletter, on our school Facebook page and sent out via email the week prior to the session.

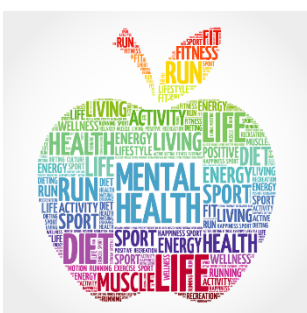
We hope that you will find this workshop to be helpful!

If there's anything else that you would like us to have a workshop on, please don't hesitate to ask. We'll do everything we can to arrange it!

Mental Health and Wellbeing Working Party

After a great success with the Wellbeing Parent working party last year, we are introducing a whole-school community Mental Health and Wellbeing working party to come together once or twice a half-term (depending on need) on a weekday evening for a solutions-based focus to improve the mental health and wellbeing of everyone in our school community.

We are hoping that with staff, parents and governors working together for a common goal, we will have even more of an impact on improving mental health and wellbeing in our school. Our focus will be to respond to the parent/pupil/staff and governor Mental Health and Wellbeing surveys. Our first meeting will take place towards the end of November (date and location to be determined). If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to the office to the attention of Emily Hutchinson - the Senior Mental Health Lead. Thank you!



Anti-Bullying Week: 'One Kind Word'

Next week, we will be recognising Anti-Bullying Week and the theme is 'One Kind Word'. Initial findings on the Parent Mental Health and Wellbeing survey suggest this is an area of concern for some parents and we wanted to ensure that we were responding to the feedback.

On Monday 15th November everyone in the school community (including parents! 😊) are being encouraged to take part in Odd Socks Day to let a little bit of our personality shine through.

Odd Socks Day means children will be in school uniform, but they will be able to wear funky socks to represent their personality for the day. This isn't for fundraising - just to raise awareness and to kick-start the week.

We will be doing a variety of activities in school with a focus on 'One Kind Word' over the week to inform children about bullying and ensuring that we have an accurate understanding of what bullying is and also what it isn't. You should have received a pamphlet on Anti-Bullying Week last Tuesday – but it will also go on the homepage of the website if you haven't.

With just 'One Kind Word', we could change someone's day....let's all try it!

Mysterious Object Lands in Ripponden!

Great Oaks were alerted to a mysterious unidentified object that appeared on the back field of Ripponden J&I School. Many pupils claimed that they had seen a flash of yellow pass by the classroom window and had heard a loud bang or had seen a speck of light falling down to Earth over the course of the last couple of days leading to the discovery. After a thorough investigation, imagine the children's shock when the object turned out to be a freshly crashed spaceship! To further confound the class, strange yellow 'footprints' led from the spaceship towards the school.

Great Oaks request that the wider school community remain vigilant, and should you come into contact with the being associated with the yellow footprints, be cautious - we do not know if 'it' is a friend or foe. Further information will be forthcoming as developments are made, though we did see a faint outline with the letter B-E-E-G-U on the side of the ship. Only time will tell what that must mean!



PTFA Updates

The PTFA have been their usual fabulous self and while it has been tricky to fundraise when we aren't having face-to-face events, as always, this hasn't stopped them!

The Hallowe'en dress down day raised £152.40 and the School Lottery has raised an impressive £247.90 – just since September. If you would like to sign up to the lottery, please see the flyer below. Thank you all for the support you have given to both these events.

Next week we will be shopping at Elfridges! This is the virtual 'catalogue' version of Secret Santa. You should have all received your envelopes for your child's Secret Santa gifts. Gifts are £2 per item and children can choose up to 8. They will be choosing them this week and then the PTFA will be ordering, wrapping and delivering these gifts before we break up for Christmas, so the children can put their gifts under your tree.

If you have, or could donate any Christmas wrapping paper, please send this into school with your children. The PTFA used up all rolls last year wrapping Secret Santa presents! Any donations would keep costs down and profits up, so we could raise more for our school.

The PTFA are doing so well that we are hopeful to have the rest of the school fitted out with interactive panels in school this year – please watch this space! Huge thanks, as always, go to our wonderful and dedicated committee of PTFA volunteers – you are all treasures and I appreciate everything you do for our school.

WIN CHRISTMAS!

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

25 WIN

HUGE FOOD HAMPER

LUXURY CHRISTMAS TREE

TABLE & TREE DECORATIONS

FESTIVE DOOR WREATH

BUBBLY & CHOCOLATE

LIGHTS, CANDLES & STOCKINGS

- Give a little back by supporting our lottery
- Help boost school fundraising
- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Weekly cash prizes, up to £25,000

To play now, go to:
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk
and search for: Ripponden J & I

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Offer ends 11th Dec 2021. Terms and conditions apply (see website).

Branch Out Awards

Not Giving Up!

Chestnuts – Harley M
Willows – Alexandra H
Maples – Mikey T
Redwoods – Charlotte W

Being Enthusiastic

Chestnuts – Sophia F
Willows – Connor M
Maples – Jasper H
Redwoods – Iver D

Showing Respect

Chestnuts – Luca T
Willows – Jude L
Maples – Oscar H
Redwoods – Gioia G

Being Kind and Caring

Chestnuts – Vinnie L
Willows – Lara V
Maples – Zac H
Redwoods – Ben H

Making Good Choices

Chestnuts – Willow W
Willows – Kian D
Maples – Luke M
Redwoods – Martha A

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.

November

Friday 19 th	Children in Need – dress down day for donations
	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Monday 22 nd	Christmas pudding orders to go home
Wednesday 24 th	Mental Health and Wellbeing Virtual Workshop

December

Monday 1 st	Year 5&6 parents Mental Health and wellbeing virtual workshop
Friday 3 rd	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 minimum donation
	KS2 celebration assembly
Monday 6 th	Christmas pudding orders back to school
Tuesday 7 th	Full Governing Meeting
Wednesday 8 th	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 10 th	Clubs finish for Christmas
Monday 13 th	Christmas puddings brought into school to go home
Thursday 16 th	School Closes for Christmas
Friday 17 th	Training Day – Busy Bees open
Monday 20 th – Thursday 23 rd	Busy Bees open – more information to follow

January 2022

Tuesday 4 th	School reopens
Friday 14 th	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Friday 28 th	KS2 celebration assembly

February

Tuesday 8 th	Full Governing Meeting
Friday 11 th	Reception/KS1 celebration assembly
Friday 18 th	Close for half term

Monday 28th

Reopen

March

Friday 4th

KS2 celebration assembly

Friday 18th

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly

Tuesday 29th

Full Governing Meeting

April

Friday 1st

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly

Friday 8th

Close for Easter

Monday 25th

Reopen for the summer term

May

Monday 2nd

May Bank Holiday – school closed

Tuesday 3rd

School reopen

Friday 6th

KS2 celebration assembly

W/C Monday 9th

KS2 SATs Week

Friday 20th

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly

Tuesday 24th

Full Governing Meeting

Friday 27th

School closes for half term

June

Monday 6th

School Closed – Queen's Jubilee

Tuesday 7th

School reopens

Friday 17th

KS2 celebration assembly

Monday 20th

Year 6 residential to Langdale all week

July

Friday 1st

Reception/KS1 celebration assembly

Friday 15th

KS2 celebration assembly

Tuesday 19th

Full Governing Meeting

Friday 22nd

School closes for summer



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Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all