



Ripponden J&I News

Friday 6th September 2019

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back! I sincerely hope you had a wonderful summer break and made many fantastic memories with your families.

All of the staff and children have returned to school fighting fit and raring to go! We must extend a very warm welcome to the new children and families who have joined us this week, not only in Little Acorns, but we have had a number of children join us in other year groups too. You are most welcome and we are sure that you will feel part of the Ripponden family in no time.

Little Acorn children have settled in beautifully to life at school and we are looking forward to the adventures they will have at school. Mrs Bowes is teaching in Little Acorns full time as Mrs Bruchez is on maternity leave. There is no baby news as yet – I will keep you posted!

We have had lots of work done both in and around school this summer and with the changes to the school day, school is busy and there is a real buzzing atmosphere, which is just lovely!

We have lots of different activities upcoming – make sure to keep an eye on the diary section. As always, we are here to work in partnership with home. Please be sure to speak to us if you ever need to!

Have a lovely weekend,

Lorraine Bamforth (Mrs)
Headteacher

Work over the summer

We had various jobs planned for the summer and also had some work done that we didn't plan! During the heavy rain we had 2 major floods. Very unplanned digging out of drains and soaking up of water as well as dehumidifiers, but we got there! Huge thanks to Mr Baxter who, during pouring rain was shoulder deep in drains at 9 o'clock at night! What a star, thank you!

We have had all of the lighting replaced in school and also the external lights around the building. We have had these replaced with LEDs which are much more energy efficient and wow – they're bright!

We have enhanced our security into and around school. We have had a new front door fitted, as the old wooden frame was warped and would expand during the damp weather. In addition to this, the door entry keypad system has been replaced with keyless card entry. This allows for authorised people only to gain entry. Safeguarding is obviously our ultimate priority so this is another layer of security.

Running Track

After phenomenal fundraising efforts and generosity from the local community, we have been able to have our all-weather running track installed (in fact was only finished on Saturday!)

This is a superb addition to our field and the children will be completing a mile a day on it. Please make sure that your children have a pair of trainers in school every day as they will need to change their footwear.

Due to the material, Little Acorns will also be using it to cycle on, which is another element which we would have never have had without this.

A huge thank you to the PTFA for such determined fundraising activities and also to everyone who has supported the school in any way. We couldn't have done it without you! This coupled with incredibly generous private donations has totally overwhelmed us. Thank you so much.



Changes to the school day

This week we have rolled out the new routines to the day. Just a reminder, that the gates will be opened at **8.40am** – please do not come before this time, as there has been a lot of congestion on the main road and down Greenacres, with people having to walk on the road, which is obviously not safe.

The gates are opened at **8.40am**, with the doors opening at **8.45am**. The children then filter down the steps and into class. I will be on the playground every day (unless I am out of school, in which case Miss Taylor or another member of the SLT will be out) and I have a note book, which I can take a message for teachers if needed. Please do not hesitate to come and see me with any message.

Yesterday (Thursday) morning, all of the children were in and we shut the gates at 8.51am. By the time I went back inside and walked down the corridor, all children were in the classrooms with coats and bags in lockers and were working. This is phenomenal and exactly what we aimed for. High quality, learning experiences with minimal time lost.

Assemblies are then mid-morning, which allows for same day interventions to be carried out to maximise progress of all groups of children. Lunch time has been reduced and when I spoke to the children about it, the classic quotation that will stick with me for a long time was from a little boy in Saplings, who said “we need to eat up and crack on!” – I couldn't have said it better myself! Lunch is slick and smooth and lessons resume in the afternoons.

All children are taken out onto the playground at 3pm (KS1) and 3.05pm (KS2). This is the ideal time to speak to your child's class teacher if you need to. Thank you for your cooperation with these changes. I appreciate change is sometimes hard but already we are seeing a really positive impact on our children's learning.

Welcome to your new class evenings

Every year, we hold a Welcome to Your New Class evening. The purpose of these meetings are to meet your child's new class teacher, find out about routines and expectations and ask any questions you may have. These evenings are usually really well attended and are a good opportunity to have a look at the classroom your child is in. If you are unable to make these meetings, the powerpoint presentations will appear on your child's class webpage after the meeting. The meetings will be in the classrooms and are as follows:

Date	Time	Class	Teacher(s)
Monday 9 th September	3.15pm	Saplings (Y1)	Ms Gilmartin
Tuesday 10 th September	3.15pm	Great Oaks (Y2)	Mrs Kenny
Wednesday 11 th September	3.15pm	Maples & Beech (Y5)	Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs Bolton, Mrs Whitaker and Mrs Bamforth
Wednesday 11 th September	3.45pm	Redwoods (Y6)	Mrs Lomas
Thursday 12 th September	3.15pm	Chestnuts (Y3)	Mrs Hamilton
Thursday 12 th September	3.15pm	Willows (Y4)	Miss Taylor
Thursday 12 th September	3.45pm	Little Acorns (Rec)	Mrs Bowes

We hope to see as many of you as we can!

Busy Bees

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us in the summer holidays for Busy Bees Holiday Club. It was a massive success. We have circulated the commitment for the 19/20 year, so you will be able to plan annual leave accordingly. If you need a copy of this, please see the office. We will also be sending out booking forms for October half term next week, so please book early to avoid disappointment. A huge thank you to the Busy Bees team who worked tirelessly to plan, resource and carry out wonderful activities with the children. We are so lucky to have such a hardworking and dedicated team.

Welcome Mrs Whitaker!

Mrs Whitaker has made a super start to life at Ripponden and is an asset to the Year 5 team – you are very welcome!

Well done Mrs Sagar!

Following Miss Broadbent's departure, Mrs Sagar has stepped up and has become cook-in-charge. This is a big undertaking and a rather unexpected one, but she has risen to the challenge and in the words of a Year 3 boy, the curry on Thursday was 'the best ever!' Well done Mrs Sagar and thank you!

A few reminders:

- We are a nut free school. This is due to severe nut allergies in school. Please do not send nuts in any form – this includes in Nutella sandwiches for lunch.
- Please remember to bring water bottles every day. We can fill them at school, but we all know the importance of staying hydrated throughout the year.
- If children are allowed to walk home on their own, we need to have written permission from parents. This is to ensure the safety of all of our children. This written permission can be in email form if this is easier.
- Make ensure that if you change any contact details you inform the office immediately.
- If mobile phones are brought into school, they must be turned off and handed into the office
- Make sure any medication is labelled and forms completed before sending into school.



Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 27th September

Save the date! This year we will be joining in with the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Macmillan is a charity that supports cancer sufferers and their families and this is a cause that has touched most people in some way.

We will send more details out nearer the time, but please save the date – we would love you to join us for coffee and cake (and if you are a baker and could donate, then that would be great too. Many thanks.

PTFA Events

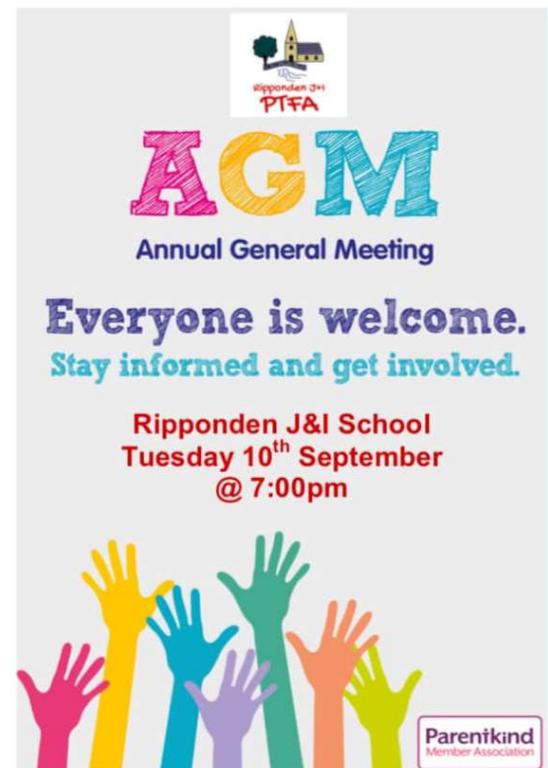
Our PTFA is such a valuable organisation – we couldn't provide what we do without their amazing fundraising efforts.

There are different ways you could get involved. The AGM is on in school next Tuesday (10th) at 7pm. This meeting will discuss what a fabulous year we have had and also make plans for this year. Please, if you can spare the time and can help in any way, we would love to see you!

The first event is just a couple of weeks later – a Fashion Show on Thursday 26th September. This is a lovely evening with prosecco flowing and the chance to grab a bargain! Ticket information if available from the office.

Book Fair

We will be holding a book fair Monday 16th September – Thursday 19th September after school in the hall. Please come along, buy a book and raise much needed funds for school. Thank you.



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.

September

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| Monday 9 th | 3.15pm Saplings Welcome Evening |
| Tuesday 10 th | 3.15pm Great Oaks Welcome Evening |
| | 4pm Full Governing Body AGM |
| | 7.30pm PTFA AGM |
| Wednesday 11 th | 3.15pm Year 5 Welcome Evening |
| | 3.45pm Redwoods Welcome Evening |

Thursday 12 th	3.15pm Chestnuts Welcome Evening 3.15pm Willows Welcome Evening 3.45pm Little Acorns Welcome Evening
Friday 13 th	2.30pm – R/KS1 Celebration Assembly
Monday 16 th	3pm - Book fair in the hall (Monday to Thursday) 3.15pm Phonics evening for Reception and Year 1 parents
Tuesday 17 th	Pedestrian training for Years 1, 2 and 4.
Thursday 26 th	7.30pm - PTFA Fashion Show in school
Friday 27 th	Macmillan Coffee Morning 2.30pm – KS2 Celebration Assembly

October

Friday 11 th	2.30pm – R/KS1 Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 22 nd	4pm – FGB
Friday 25 th	2.30pm – KS2 Celebration Assembly Break up for half term
W/C 28 th	Busy Bees Open all week – contact to book

November

Monday 4 th	Training Day – Busy Bees open – contact to book
Tuesday 12 th	Parents Evening
Thursday 14 th	Parents Evening
Friday	



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Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all

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