



Ripponden J&I News

Friday 11th June 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful half term break. The weather really helped as it meant it felt like a holiday! It was really nice to be able to go places, it felt a little bit more like 'normal'.

However, the Covid cases are on the rise in our area, including the new Delta variant and I have been made aware of numerous bubbles closing in local schools. We need to remain vigilant and stick to the hands – face – space guidelines. To date, we have managed to retain our bubbles this since Christmas and we would really like it to stay that way.

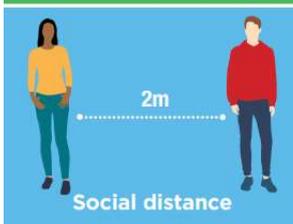
Please also remember that if your child displays any of the main symptoms (persistent cough, temperature, loss of smell/taste) then the whole family must isolate and the affected child must take a test. This should be a PCR test (one at a test centre, not a lateral flow test). Please keep school informed at all times, as we need to seek advice and guidance from Public Health at all stages.

Collectively, we have done really well so far. Let's keep working together to keep it that way!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,

Headteacher

CORONAVIRUS: YOU CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD



If you need support to self-isolate call 01422 392890.

For further information on coronavirus visit:
calderdale.gov.uk/v2/coronavirus



COVID-19 vaccination

People most at risk from the coronavirus will be vaccinated first. Your GP practice will invite you for a COVID-19 vaccination when it is your turn. In the meantime continue to follow all the guidance to control the spread of the virus and save lives.

- Do not contact the NHS for an appointment until your GP practice invites you.
- The Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine which is being used for vaccinations in this phase has a 95% success rate for people of all ages, genders and ethnic groups.
- MHRA, the official UK regulator, has confirmed that this vaccine is very safe.
- As with all medicines and vaccines a small number of people could experience side effects, but most are mild and short-term. Even if you do have symptoms of COVID-19 after the first dose, you still need to have the second for the vaccine to be effective.
- You may not be protected from COVID-19 until at least seven days after your second dose of the vaccine.
- The Pfizer vaccine is vegan and vegetarian. If further vaccines are approved information will be published about known allergens or ingredients that are important for certain faiths, cultures and beliefs.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is not recommended for women who are pregnant.
- Anyone suffering from a fever-type illness should postpone their vaccine until they have recovered.

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Staffing Changes from September

There are a number of staffing changes for September for a number of reasons. As Mrs Bruchez left and Miss Taylor is leaving, this opens up opportunities for staffing changes.

Instead of the 'traditional model' of headteacher and deputy headteacher, we have decided to look at other leadership structures. What this means, is that we will be having 2 Assistant Headteachers and a separate SENDCO.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Kenny and Mrs Lomas will be the Assistant Headteachers (AHTs) from September and Ms Gilmartin will be the SENDCO. I am confident that this will be a very strong Senior Leadership Team (SLT) bringing many different skills to the group. I am sure you will join with me in congratulating the team.

We were also left with a teaching class vacancy, for which we interviewed before the half term break. I am pleased to report that Mr Baldwin will be joining our teaching staff from September. I am sure that Greg will fit in really well and become a very valued member of the team.

So...for the bit that you have been waiting for...teachers for next year. Below is a table of teachers for the new academic year. As you can see, there is a fair bit of movement in some cases. It is important to move teachers around for their own professional development and for the right needs of the children. As well as the teachers listed below, the classes will also be taught by our HLTAs and Cover Supervisors for teacher's PPA and management release time, as is the case now.

Class	Year Group	Teacher(s)
Little Acorns	Reception	Mrs J Kenny
Saplings	Year 1	Ms M Gilmartin (FT)
Great Oaks	Year 2	Mrs E Hutchinson (M-W) Mrs D Bolton (Th-F)
Chestnuts	Year 3	Mrs T Hamilton (M-W) Mrs G Bowes (Th-F)
Willows	Year 4	Mr G Baldwin
Maples	Year 5	Mrs V Whitaker (M-Th) Mrs L Bamforth (F am)
Redwoods	Year 6	Mrs J Lomas

In addition to these changes, Mrs Smith in the office will be leaving us in the summer. Sandra has worked with us for many years and will be greatly missed (as will her baking!) If you know of anyone who is interested in an administrator's job, the information is on the vacancies section of our website.

Donna Willacy is also stepping down from her governor duties. Donna was our longest standing governor and has seen the school through many tough and fantastic times and has been a great support to the school and to me personally. After 13 years, two children through school and a move to Lancashire, Donna has decided it is time to give up her governor title. I would like to thank Donna most sincerely for her many years of hard work, dedication and service to the school and wish her all the very best for the future.

So...lots of change for September but some very exciting times ahead!

COVID-19 Testing

It is still imperative to be vigilant with symptoms. If **anyone in your household** experiences one or more of these, then the **whole household** needs to isolate and the symptomatic person should get tested. Please let us know ASAP of the test result so we can consult with Public Health. office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk or **07399 326030**. In all other cases, if your child would normally be well enough to send into school, please do. We are still maintaining bubbles and should a positive case occur in a bubble, the bubble will need to close. As always, contact us if you need help, support or advice. Thanks.



Parking Around School and Greenacres

You may have noticed police and council officials around school this week and the week before the holidays. This is due to complaints from the residents of Greenacres. The complaints have been long-standing and I have written to parents numerous times about not parking in the residents' bays. This appears to have escalated though, with not only the parking, but with some parents exercising their dogs on the grass around the bungalows and not clearing up the dog mess and also allowing children to run up and down the paths between the residents housing. As I am sure you can imagine, this can be very distressing for the residents, who by nature may have hearing or sight impairments, as well as mobility issues. Please do not allow your children to run up and down their paths and if you do walk your dog on these areas, please clean up their mess. There will be police and council presence around the area over the coming weeks and they have advised that they may be issuing penalty notices.

In addition, again, I have written about this previously, but please, please, please watch your children carefully around the car park. A number of times this week staff members have had to slam on their brakes, as a child has darted out around their cars. My worry is that this is potentially an accident waiting to happen. Please be vigilant and watch your children carefully around the car park. Many thanks for your understanding.

Chestnut's Whale Song

Chestnuts have studied the text 'The Whales' Song' by Dylan Sheldon. It inspired them to paint pictures of whales and use expanded noun phrases to describe the whales. They really concentrated hard and produced some careful artwork!



Maples' Nature Trail

In small groups, pupils in Maples mapped a nature trail around the school grounds, collected clues and evidence from their routes (drawing anything that shouldn't be picked or disturbed) and then wrote about the activity.

They're hoping that Ms Gilmartin will be able to use photos and writing from their activities for her display boards and her evidence portfolio towards the RSPB Wild Challenge Bronze award.



Polite reminder about picking up

Please remember to let the office know if someone different is going to pick up your children. We have had a few occasions over the last couple of weeks when children have said that they are going home with another parent. We really need to hear this from the parents. If we do not hear from the child's parents, then we will not release the children. I am sure you will understand this, as safeguarding is our number one priority.



Donations of Football Kit **Franky Football Foundation**

The Franky Football Foundation has been established to try and support children in some African countries with football kit. If you have any old football boots or kit, please bring them into school and will pass them on. The charity will really appreciate them. Many thanks.

Break the Rules Day – Saplings Style!

We didn't have any lessons in Saplings on 'Break the Rules Day' and instead we designed props for a play based on *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle. It was a huge success with everyone taking part in some way, by making the scenery, acting or directing. What a fun day was had by all!



Year 5 Earth and Beyond

Year 5 have been learning all about Earth and Beyond in Science, so we tied our Artwork to that theme by using mixed media to create these Astronauts in Space pieces. The pupils were able to choose how they wanted their astronaut to appear on the outer space background. Well done Year 5!

Busy Bees in the Summer

We have had lots of enquiries about Busy Bees in the summer. We are hoping to open for some of the holidays, but we won't be able to open for all 6 weeks. The reason for this is that we are hoping to have some very major building work over the summer, including a new roof, new boiler and heating system and some new windows. Due to this, we won't be able to open for some weeks as there will be no heating or hot water. We will get these dates out to you as soon as possible, as I know you need to plan for holidays etc. We are waiting to hear about schedules of work, so we can plan the holiday club around this. As soon as we have this information, I will get it out to you so you can book in. Many thanks for your support.

Busy Bees Play Worker Vacancies

We have the need to recruit after school and casual Busy Bees workers. The after school post is every night after school and the casual is mainly for the holiday clubs, but may be needed during term time, to cover absences. The casual posts may also lead to permanent contracts. If you, or anyone you know may be interested in these posts, please head to our website, where you will find all the details and also an application form to apply. <https://www.ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk/vacancies> As always, any questions, please ask.

Branch Out Awards

Not Giving Up!

Chestnuts – Stanley A
Willows – Millie F
Maples – Bethan B
Sequoia – Alfie W
Redwoods – Poppy S

Being Enthusiastic

Chestnuts – Chloe G
Willows – Miles A
Maples – Gioia G
Sequoia – Cameron S
Redwoods – Sophie O

Showing Respect

Chestnuts – Jessica L
Willows – Evie W
Maples – Wilf B
Sequoia – Katie H
Redwoods – Connie F

Being Kind and Caring

Chestnuts – Elsie W
Willows – Gracie P
Maples – Bradley G
Sequoia – Isla F
Redwoods – Gabriel R

Making Good Choices

Chestnuts – Alexandra H
Willows – Noah W
Maples – Paige G
Sequoia – Henry K
Redwoods – Kitty H-S

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.

June

Monday 14th

PTFA Meeting on Zoom – 7pm

Friday 25th

KS1 Celebration Zoom Assembly

July

Thursday 1st

Vicar Stephen in to Willows

Friday 9th

KS2 Celebration Zoom Assembly

Wednesday 14th

Friday 16th

Tuesday 20th

Friday 23rd

Year 6 residential to Blencathra

Year 6 home from Blencathra

Reports to go out

Full Governor's Meeting

School Closes for the summer

September

Monday 6th

Tuesday 7th

Staff training day

School reopens to all pupils



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Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all