



Ripponden J&I News

Friday 27th November 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Another full-on couple of weeks in school! The children have been working so hard and are making really good progress, including super work on emotional and mental health. We are so happy to see them come into school every day with a big smile on their faces!

We have lots to look forward to in the coming weeks – Christmas is coming, maybe not as we know it, but restrictions will not stop the magic in Ripponden!

Thank you to all of those families who have been racking up the miles in our Race to Lapland (and back!) It was phenomenal to see that we had managed halfway there in the first week! Please give generously, if you are able, to the very worthwhile mental health charity, Healthy Minds. We all know that this year has been particularly difficult for many and Healthy Minds provide a vital service in our local area.

Keep your eyes peeled for further announcements about Christmas. I apologise in advance if you feel you are getting too many emails/texts – but these are the main methods of communication and we would hate for anyone to miss out on anything.

Have a wonderful weekend,

N Bamforth

Headteacher



COVID-19 Symptoms

Please remember that there are only 3 **recognised** symptoms of COVID-19. They are:

- High temperature (37.8 or higher)
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste.

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.

In all other cases, if your child would normally be well enough to send into school, please do. As always, contact us if you need help, support or advice. Thanks.

Amazon Wishlist – thank you so much!

When the PTFA asked me to put together a ‘wish list’ of things that we would love in school, but with ever reducing budgets, struggle to afford, I have to say I was hesitant. I worried what the reaction from our families would be, but oh.....my.....word! I would never have expected this reaction! We have been genuinely overwhelmed with the response and we cannot thank you enough. Having the parcels arrive daily has been like an early Christmas and to think that our wonderful parents and grandparents want to support us in this way has been very humbling. I really cannot thank you enough. Here are some pictures of what you have bought – all items are going into their respective classrooms next week to be enjoyed by so many children for so long. Thank you so much again.



Kindness Christmas

Kindness Christmas are going to deliver a special Christmas to families across West Yorkshire which will happen Tuesday 1st December – Wednesday 23rd December. WE WILL deliver Christmas hampers and gifts...FREE... anywhere in West Yorkshire!



How will it work?

It's as simple as clicking on a link. So here you go:
[Click here to register your household](#)

During the month of December ONLY, The Real Junk Food Project will make 1 delivery per registered household. It is completely free and delivered by our amazing volunteers.

If you, or anyone you know would benefit from this incredible kindness, please click on the link above and register.

Ripponden J & I School's Race to Lapland



Do you want to get more active, improve your mental health, support a local charity and/or connect with the school community? Then Ripponden J & I School's Race to Lapland is for you!!

'Ripponden J & I's Race to Lapland' is a school community collective goal of running/walking/jogging/cycling to reach **2219.5 miles** (the distance from Ripponden to Lapland, Finland!!) in time for the Christmas holidays to raise funds for Calderdale Healthy Minds who are working incredibly hard to help members of our community at this challenging time.

Our ambitious fundraising goal is **£2219.50**, one pound per mile!

We're hoping this initiative will help out in the following ways:

- 1) Helping our school community feel connected at a time when we might be feeling a bit isolated.
- 2) Getting people active when we might all just want to hide under a blanket with the darker nights.
- 3) A chance to help a local charity when they really need it!
- 4) Getting ourselves into the holiday spirit which is trickier to do altogether at the moment.

When can I take part? From **Monday 16th November** to end of day on **Thursday 17th December** at times that are convenient for you. How many miles can you contribute to our collective

goal of 2219.5 miles? Make your own personal goal and try to beat that. You could even participate in festive gear (**dig out that Santa hat or reindeer ears!**)! All miles contributed should be above and beyond your normal daily 'work' routine – not just 'steps' you'd normally do.

Who can join in? Any member of the school community: pupils, parents, carers, siblings, staff and governors! The more the merrier!

Where can you and your family and friends support our cause? You and your friends and family can make donations to Calderdale Healthy Minds via this link to our JustGiving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fund.../rippondenracetolapland...> Please share the link wherever you can!!!

How are we going to track the amount of miles we run/jog/walk/cycle? Choose your favourite distance tracking app (Strava, Map My Run, etc.) and pop a screen grab onto the designated post in the Ripponden School Facebook group and we'll track the totals (available 16th November). Don't have Facebook? You can pop the screen grab onto your child's Google Classroom account and their teacher will add it to the running total. The children will also track their laps of the track to join in during school hours and contribute to the miles.

What happens if we meet the goal before the Christmas Holidays? Well, we'll do a little virtual happy dance, then let's challenge ourselves to see how many miles we can do beyond the 2219.5 miles to Lapland!

Let's do this together for each other and for a very good cause!

Mental Health & Well-being

Serene Saplings

Last Friday, we had a well-being afternoon in Saplings. We started by listening to some relaxing music whilst closing our eyes and resting our heads on the tables. Then we listened to the wonderful story of Bloom, and learned about the importance of saying kind words to each other. In the story, kind words made the flower bloom. Unkind words made it close up. Then we all drew gardens full of blooming flowers, rainbows and happy children. Some children went around the tables saying how amazing their friends' work was. We had a really happy and relaxing afternoon.



Sequoia discuss how to help with your own health

This week, Sequoia class looked at how to identify if you or someone you care for are struggling with their mental health. We discussed that it is often hard to see this, as people can often 'mask' their feelings. We then looked at strategies that can help either our physical health, our mental health or both and how often we would employ these strategies. Every child handled this with empathy, compassion and sensitivity. What a smashing group of young people.



Secret Santa

We held our first (and very different!) Secret Santa last week. Thank you so much for everyone who brought their money in in the labelled envelopes, it made the whole process so much easier. Huge thank you too, to the teachers who facilitated this 'catalogue' style of shopping, not an easy feat! Our amazing PTFA have now ordered all of the gifts, will quarantine them, wrap them and bring them back into school to be quarantined. Gifts will be sent home during the last week of term, ready to be put under the tree! A huge thank you to our PTFA for all of the last-minute planning, Zoom meetings late into the night and your unwavering commitment to our school.



Kenworthy's Cakes Christmas Pudding Sale

We are running the fabulous Christmas Pudding competition again this year in collaboration with our lovely local bakery Kenworthy's Cakes. For every pudding order she receives, school will receive 50p back so if you were thinking of starting to stock up on your Christmas puds then please consider doing it through the school – it helps fundraising and helps support a local business in these difficult times. Hannah is also running her competition for the top 3 sellers to receive a homemade selection box of festive treats – well worth winning! Forms are attached with the newsletter and will need to be returned by **Tuesday December 1st**. Cash needs to come back into school with the form in a sealed, fully labelled envelope please.



Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 4th December

On Friday 4th of December, we will be having our usual Christmas jumper day! Come to school in your best Christmas jumper, t shirt or dress. This year we are asking for donations of £1 instead of the hamper donations as we are unable to hold the much-loved Grandparents Around The Christmas Tree event and raffle the hampers this year.

smile.amazon.co.uk

Ripponden J&I School PTFA have registered as an AmazonSmile charity, please support your school by choosing us as your nominated charity, ahead of completing all your Christmas shopping on Amazon.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when customers shop through the URL smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisations selected by customers.

To choose us as your charity simply visit your smile.amazon.co.uk account by clicking this link - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1018781-0>. If the link does not work, there is an option to choose your supporting charity just below the product search bar, if you have a charity selected choose to change and search for us using our registered charity number 1018781.



Then all you have to do is remember to use smile.amazon.co.uk rather than just amazon.co.uk to ensure we receive the donation from Amazon.

Festive Movie Day! Thursday 17th December

On the last day of term, the children will be having a festive movie day! They can come dressed in non-uniform (we heartily suggest some festive pyjamas!) and they will be watching a Christmas movie in the afternoon. The PTFA will be supplying delicious snack packs for all children to enjoy whilst watching the movie and will be asking for a £2.50 donation for the event.



Branch Out Awards

Not Giving Up!

Saplings – Samuel H
Great Oaks – Harley M

Being Enthusiastic

Saplings – Kai W
Great Oaks – Patrick A

Showing Respect

Saplings – Siena R
Great Oaks – Jasmine W-D

Being Kind and Caring

Saplings – Dolly B
Great Oaks – Willow W

Making Good Choices

Saplings – Harry-George H-S
Great Oaks – Sophia F

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

Monday 30th PTFA Meeting – 7pm

December

Tuesday 1st Deadline for Christmas Pudding orders be in school
Friday 4th Christmas Jumper Day – donations please (suggested £1)
KS2 Celebration Zoom
Tuesday 8th Full Governors Meeting
Thursday 10th Christmas Dinner Day ***PACKED LUNCHES PLEASE RETURN SLIP IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE***
Friday 11th Deadline for any Christmas Cards to be brought in – Labelled with the child's name and class please.
Monday 14th Special North Pole virtual visit
PM – Year 2 Party and Year 4 Party
Secret Santa Gifts sent home this week
Tuesday 15th AM – Year 1 Party
PM – Year 3 Party and Year 5 Party
Wednesday 16th PM – Year 6 Party
Ordered Christmas Puddings sent home
Thursday 17th Festive Film Day – Non-uniform (Festive PJs?) £2.50 each for snacks
Reception Party
School Closes for Christmas
Friday 18th Staff training day – school closed to children.
Busy Bees will be open – please contact to book

January 2021

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| Monday 4 th | School reopens |
| Friday 8 th | R/KS1 Celebration Zoom Assembly |
| Friday 22 nd | KS2 Celebration Zoom Assembly |

February

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| Friday 5 th | R/KS1 Celebration Zoom Assembly |
| Friday 12 th | School Closes for half term |
| Monday 22 nd | School reopens |
| Friday 26 th | KS2 Celebration Zoom Assembly |

March

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| Friday 12 th | R/KS1 Celebration Zoom Assembly |
| Sunday 14 th | Mother's Day |
| Wednesday 24 th | Individual Photographs |
| Friday 26 th | KS2 Celebration Zoom Assembly |

April

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| Friday 1 st | School Closes for Easter |
| Friday 16 th | National Offer Day for Reception 2021 Starters |
| Monday 19 th | School reopens |



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Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all