Ripponden J&I News

Friday 9th October 2020

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks in school and we have started putting lots of plans in place for various different plans going forward. One thing this whole situation has done is it has made us think out of the box! See below for some fantastic activities that are being planned by our wonderful PTFA!

Speaking of our wonderful PTFA, they have given school an amazing £6000, which is from funds raised last year. This will now be used to refit some classrooms with new interactive projection devices. We have been looking at new Smartboards and projectors and also LCD HD interactive panels. We have got one of these panels in on a trial basis and staff will be trained on the demonstration model and we will then hopefully make the decision that this is what we want to go for. Following this, we will hopefully place an order for 3 classrooms to be fitted, with the hope that we can raise funds for the rest of school in due course.

We have put out plans for October half term at Busy Bees – please see the activities below. Please get in touch if you would like to book on. Due to the current situation, places are limited.

Many thanks, as always for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Lorraine Bamforth (Mrs)
Headteacher

Parent Panel for Well-being

As the Mental Health and Well-being coordinator at Ripponden Junior and Infants School, I'm interested in starting a Parent Panel for Well-being to aid in the mental health and well-being of our school community.

We'll be aiming to meet via Zoom, half-termly on a weeknight, and our aim will be to develop and implement ideas that help to continue to create a community that puts the mental health and well-being of all stakeholders of our school at its heart.

Our first Zoom meeting will be on **Tuesday 20th October at 7pm.**

If you are keen to join us or have further questions about the panel, you can reach me at:
e.hutchinson@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk
Thank you very much!

Emily Hutchinson

Google Classroom

We are launching into the virtual world! We have been working really hard to get Google Classroom, a virtual platform, up and running. This is a secure learning space for the children and adults to interact. This can also be used in the case of children having to self-isolate, or in the worst case scenarios if a bubble were to close. The idea is that work will be uploaded on here and children can submit it and have it marked by their teacher. I will be sending out login details and a parent's guide next week and teachers will be starting to upload homework on there from next week. This will be a practice run for us all – have a go, but as always, let us know if you struggle!

Parents Evening

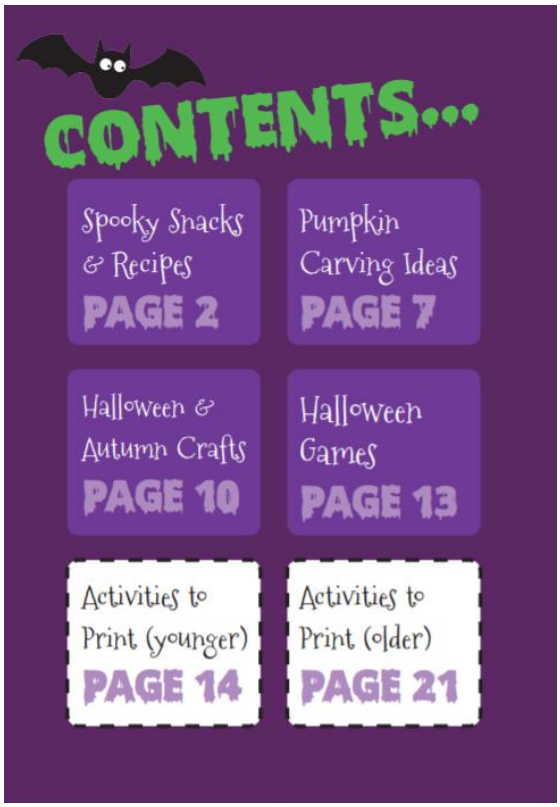
At this time of the year, we usually invite all parents in to discuss how the children have settled in and how we can work together for the best needs of the children. Obviously, in the current circumstances, having face to face meetings will not be possible.

To this end, we will be offering telephone consultations the week after next – details will be sent out next week. While this isn't the same as a face to face meeting, it will still allow us to discuss with families. We will then follow up with the short written reports we always send out. These will go out after half term.

PTFA Halloween 2020

This year we are unable to celebrate Halloween in our usual way so as a committee we have tried to come up with some new fun ideas for the children to enjoy and to help us raise money to update the IT equipment in school. Firstly, we are holding a spooky-themed non-uniform day on the last day of term (Friday 23rd Oct) and asking for a donation of £1, sent into school on the day (please don't send accessories such as masks/props into school due to Covid regulations.) Secondly one of our super talented committee members has compiled an amazing Halloween activity pack – perfect for keeping you and the kids entertained throughout half term! For a donation of £2.50 we will email the pack directly to you which has 30 pages of recipes, craft ideas, pumpkin carving inspiration, games, activities and puzzles suitable for both KS1 and KS2 children! So even though we are disappointed that we cannot hold the disco for the children this year, we hope that both you and they will love these new Halloween ideas too. If you would like the activity pack, please transfer £2.50 into the PTFA bank account and email rippondenschoolptfa@gmail.com stating you've paid and the reference for the transfer. Alternatively, please send cash in an envelope with your email address on to school with your child.

And have a Happy Halloween!



Year 5 Book Pen pal

Year 5 received some very exciting mail last week, when we embarked on this year's journey of having a Book Pen Pal. Basically, authors and illustrators are matched with classes dotted around the UK and we write back and forth over the year with the authors and illustrators imparting their knowledge.

This year, we have been matched with the fabulous author Jenni Spangler, who earlier this year released her book *The Vanishing Trick* which has received rave reviews. We read the first chapter and we're hooked! In her letter, she told us all about the editing process, which was perfect as we were just about to set to work edit our extended write. This week we have begun working on our postcard replies and we can't wait to find out the answers to our questions. If you have a question for Jenni Spangler, let us know and we can ask her for you!

Maples Class Letters to the Queen, the Prime Minister and our local MP

Maples Class have been reading the book *The Boy at the Back of the Class* and learning about the reasons why people migrate from one country to another in Geography lessons. In the story, Ahmet, a refugee boy from Syria, hopes to be reunited with his family who haven't yet made it to the UK. After hearing that the borders might close to refugees (and therefore stop Ahmet from being with his family) Ahmet's new friends come up with a plan to help.

We put ourselves into the shoes of Ahmet's classmates and we decided that we would choose to write a letter to the Queen, the Prime Minister, or our local MP asking for their help in the matter. We have sent off our letters, with a cover letter explaining the task, and we are now awaiting a reply. We look forward to updating you when we have news to share!

Save Our Future (SOF) Podcast featured on the Radio!

On Tuesday of this week, our school podcast, Save Our Future Podcast, was featured on BCB Radio 106.6 on Pick of the Podcasts. You can listen to the radio broadcast here: https://podcasts.canstream.co.uk/bcb/index.php?id=54638 Although currently on hiatus due to current restrictions, we look forward to getting back up and running with our podcast when it's sensible to do so.

Monday 26th	Tuesday 27th	Wednesday 28th	Thursday 29th	Friday 30th
Breakfast served between 8-9am	Breakfast served between 8-9am	Breakfast served between 8-9am	Breakfast served between 8-9am	Breakfast served between 8-9am
AM – Salt dough hedgehogs	AM – Conker Crafts	AM – Pumpkin handprint photo keepsake	AM – Leaf autumn animal pictures	AM – Spider headband crafts
Lunch 12-1pm Please bring a packed lunch	**Lunch 12-1pm** Please bring a packed lunch	**Lunch 12-1pm** Please bring a packed lunch	**Lunch 12-1pm** Please bring a packed lunch	**Lunch 12-1pm** Please bring a packed lunch
PM – Homemade bird feeders	PM – Autumn silhouette art	PM – leaf lanterns	PM – Pumpkin slime	Pm – Monster cookies
Snack between 3.30-4.30pm	Snack between 3.30-4.30pm	Snack between 3.30-4.30pm	Snack between 3.30-4.30pm	Snack between 3.30-4.30pm

October Half Term at Busy Bees

Above is the outline for Busy Bees holiday club during half term. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we have to limit the capacity, so if you would like to book in, I would urge you to do so as soon possible. Busy Bees is open to children whether they usually attend or not. Please get in touch with the office with any questions or to book.

Branch Out Awards

Not Giving Up!
Chestnuts – Kian D
Willows – Isaac W
Maples – Paige G
Sequoia – Alisha W
Redwoods – Keira L

Being Enthusiastic
Chestnuts – Connor M
Willows – Jude R
Maples – Charlotte Q
Sequoia – Willow J
Redwoods – Harry R

Showing Respect
Chestnuts – Sophie W
Willows – Summer S
Maples – Ben H
Sequoia – Grace R
Redwoods – CJ D

Being Kind and Caring
Chestnuts – Elsie W
Willows – Millie F
Maples – Joe T-P
Sequoia – Amelie R
Redwoods – Elin S

Making Good Choices
Chestnuts – Eleanor B
Willows – Will G
Maples – Chloe B
Sequoia – Katie H
Redwoods – Sophie O

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.

October

Friday 16th	Deadline to get Christmas cards back to school
	R/KS1 Celebration Zoom
Monday 19th	PTFA Meeting – 7pm
Tuesday 20th	Full Governors Meeting
Friday 23rd	Dress Down Day – Halloween Costumes or non-uniform £1 donation
	School closes for half term

November

Monday 2nd	Teacher Training Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 3rd	School reopens
Friday 6th	KS2 Celebration Zoom
Wednesday 11th	Remembrance Day
Monday 16th	Anti-bullying/ Road Safety Week
Friday 20th	R/KS1 Celebration Zoom

December

Friday 4th	KS2 Celebration Zoom
Tuesday 8th	Full Governors Meeting
Thursday 17th	School Closes for Christmas
Friday 18th	Staff training day – school closed to children

January

Monday 4th	School reopens