

RYDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2020

Newsletter Issue 4

Rydon Remembers

Rydon observed the Remembrance in school on Wednesday 11th November. On the front playground, children from Y2 performed poems related to the Remembrance theme and Y6 performed a song from their WWII assembly—all socially distanced in their year group bubbles and in the fresh air. Children and staff took part in the two minutes silence. Years 3, 4 & 5 observed the two minute silence in their classrooms. The whole event was very moving and helped the children appreciate the importance of the occasion.



Dr Bike

We have organised for another bike maintenance session to take place on December 1st. More details will follow shortly, but write the date on your diary if you would like your child's bike to be checked over and serviced.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Thanks to everyone for the donations to Children in Need last Friday. In total the children raised more than £400. Also, well done to Mrs Mendl, our Kitchen Manager and her team who made and baked over 300 Pudsey Bear biscuits, for the children to have with their school lunch.



News from the classrooms: 2C and 2HT

On Thursday 22nd October Y2 visited Abbrook Farm as part of their science unit on Seeds & Berries and Autumnal Changes. Pete the Farm Manager took the children on a guided tour to look for signs of Autumn. The children were encouraged to forage for nuts, seeds and leaves which they then bought back to school to sort and draw. They saw lots of animals including sheep, geese, ducks, chickens and their favourite, the pigs!!



Awards

Congratulations to the following children who have been chosen by their class teacher for the 'Star of the Week' award:

W/C 16th November

Proud Peacock—EYFS
Go For It Gorilla—Y1/Y2

EYFS

Jasmine E
Mason V-P

KS1

Charlie C
Travis
Jacob B
Esmee H



W/C 16th November

**KS 2 Behaviour for Learning
Awards— this week the value is:
Uses what they already know**

KS2

Max B
Grace S
Jarvis
Brooke
Rayney
Jayden
Seren
Logan



W/C 16th November

**Miss Rootham's
'Star of the Week'**

Violet in Class 6W
Violet has shown an incredibly positive attitude to school since September. She has been smartly dressed and always very polite.
Well done, Violet



Christmas at Rydon

Christmas for everyone will be very different this year. Here at Rydon we are aiming to make things as normal as possible but we will not be able to hold our usual performances that are such an important part of our community celebrations.

We will be decorating the school as usual and have the Christmas dinner planned for Wednesday 16th December.

We are also planning a virtual Christmas celebration to hopefully involve the whole school community in the final week of term. More details of this event and other Christmas arrangements will follow in the coming weeks.



Words of the moment



thud

Definition: thud means a dull or thick sound made when a heavy object hit something.

simultaneously

Definition: simultaneously means at the same time—The soldiers simultaneously raised their berets to salute the major.



Life behind the school doors...

As parents are not able to come into school at the moment, we wanted to try to give you all a glimpse of what the 'new normal' looks like behind the school doors. As you will know, we have had to change the structure of the school day, but the teaching and learning remains as normal as it possibly can be. The classrooms are laid out differently and there are restrictions on the ways that resources can be shared, but the children are working hard and enjoying their learning. Some of the biggest changes take place at lunchtimes, breaktimes and assemblies.



Lunches for children in Year One and Reception are eaten in the hall, but all other classes eat lunches in their classrooms. It is still a very social time with lots of chat either before or after they go out for their 30 minutes on the playground. It has been great to see the way that the children are also starting to clear up their classrooms ready for the afternoon – a special mention to the children in Year Two who are very keen helpers.

'We love eating in the classroom and helping at lunchtime, but some children drop too many crumbs.' Year 2 children

Break times have always been a much needed time to let off steam and catch up with friends.

Due to the need to operate in 'bubbles', the children have to remain in their class or year group bubbles and the times are now staggered to allow for space for all classes. The children play with their friends in their bubble, but also find ways to chat and wave to siblings and other friends in different areas of the playground. We also have children looking after the chickens – making sure they are fed, watered and happy.



'We still enjoy breaktimes but miss seeing some of our friends who aren't out at the same time as us.' Year 6 children

As we are not able to use the hall as a communal space and mix year groups, assemblies are held remotely with Mr Banwell or Miss Rootham (and sometimes a chicken) magically appearing on the screen. We still highlight children's achievements across the school so the children can celebrate together and acknowledge each other's successes.



'The virtual assemblies are great and sitting in the classroom is more comfortable than on the hall floor!' Year 4 children



Life in school is far from a normal experience for children or staff, but rest assured we are doing all we can to reassure the children and give them the best possible education under these challenging circumstances.

Thank You

Thanks to you all for adhering to our request for the wearing of masks and face coverings when dropping off and collecting your children. I know that it has made the whole school community feel less anxious at this difficult time.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We are very aware that a growing number of children and young people are experiencing feelings such as anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. There are online resources available to help you and your child with mental health, including:

MindEd, a free educational resource from Health Education England on children and young people's mental health <https://www.minded.org.uk/>

Rise Above, which aims to build resilience and support good mental health in young people aged 10 to 16 <https://riseabove.org.uk/>

Every Mind Matters, which includes an online tool and email journey to support everyone to feel more confident in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Our own Devon County Council has launched a five day mindfulness challenge <https://www.learndevon.co.uk/mindfulness-challenge/>

Rydon Curriculum Update from Miss Rootham

'Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.' Albert Einstein

Over the past year, we have been reviewing the design of our curriculum in order to ensure it continues to deliver a high-quality education whilst equipping our pupils for a successful future in the 21st century. We have worked hard to make the curriculum relevant and meaningful to pupils and placed an emphasis on developing the qualities our children need for future learning, including our school values of **resilience**, **responsibility**, **respect** and **teamwork** which permeate all areas of school life.

Subject and year group maps are now available to view on the Rydon website. Please take a look!

