



ULTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

May 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been great to have some warmer weather over the last few weeks. The children have made the most of the sunshine at breaktimes on both the playground and field. On sunny days, please remember to send your child with a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream pre-applied.

Hopefully, the nicer weather will continue over the half term break. I would like to take this opportunity to wish pupils a safe and enjoyable half term break. Mr Horton.

SATs

Well done to all of our Year 6 pupils who completed their SATs last week. The pupils were calm and collected during their tests and they impressed us with their maturity. Over four days, they completed six tests and impressively greeted each one with a smile! As a reward for their positive attitudes, Year 6 had a visit from a local ice cream van. Y6 will receive their results alongside their school report at the end of the academic year.

Year 2 pupils have also been busy completing their SATs this week. Again, the children have undertaken these with maturity and an extremely positive attitude. These tests are marked internally by staff and help the Year 2 teachers to make their end of year judgements which are reported to the Local Authority and Department for Education. Of course, we also have something special planned to reward Year 2 for their hard work!

Cross Country

Well done to all those pupils who competed in the Rothwell Schools Cross Country last Friday. It was lovely to see so many pupils taking part and the level of parental support that they had. A special mention to Olivia, Year 5, who finished 2nd in the Girls' 'B' race and received an individual medal. Our boys also triumphed in the 'A' race and finished second in the team competition. Well done to our medal winners and everybody who competed. It was great to see so many of our younger pupils taking part; Mr Westmoreland is hopeful that we have many future champions in the making. Thank you to the staff who also came to support the event and cheer on the pupils. One thing is certain, we won the award for the school with the loudest celebration cheer!

Alex's Garden

Last week, KS1 pupils held a celebration, alongside Alex's family, to open our new butterfly garden created on the field in Alex's memory. The area has been planted with butterfly and bee friendly plants which should hopefully attract lots of wildlife. At the start of the week, the children released butterflies which they had cared for from caterpillars. We did have to release these earlier than planned as the warmer weather sped up their transformation. During the week, pupils and staff decorated stones with pictures of butterflies to add a splash of colour to the area. On Friday, we officially opened the garden and celebrated with some butterfly themed songs, poems and buns. I know that Alex would have loved using the area to observe the butterflies and other insects and it is a fitting tribute to his memory.

New Teacher

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Miss Alice Bolton. Miss Bolton will be joining us from September to cover Miss Harden's maternity leave.

Jewellery

Over the last few weeks we have noticed an increase in the amount of jewellery being worn in School. As a reminder, below is an extract from our Uniform Policy:

"No items of jewellery should be worn at all; if a child wears a wristwatch, it is their responsibility. No ear-rings should be worn; if children have pierced ears, they must wear flat studs, no jewels or hoops or dangly ear-rings as these may get caught and cause injury. For PE, all ear-rings should be removed by the child – it is not considered safe to cover ear-rings with tape during PE lessons. School will not be responsible for injury caused when children wear ear-rings or jewellery."

Recorder Club

There are spaces available at Recorder Club which runs every Friday morning, starting at 8.15am. If your child is interested, please inform the Main Office.

Smarties challenge

A huge thank you to all who participated in the POPS Smartie tube challenge. We have had a good response and POPS are currently in the process of trying to count the large volume of change received! When we have a final total, we will share this with you.

As always, thank you to POPS for their continued support and fundraising efforts.

A message from Mr Brian Kelly, Headteacher, Royds school:

I wanted to let you know that I will be leaving Royds to take up a new position, from September 2018. These last four and a half years at Royds have been an amazing experience, building a great team of staff to help improve the school, but I have taken this very difficult decision to further my experience in school leadership. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved at Royds but it has all been possible because of the support of the students and parents in the community. I know this will carry on and the school will continue to thrive, under the leadership of Claire Robbins, the current Deputy Headteacher and the governing body. They have the same passion and drive to keep improving the school and I know they will want to maintain the close links we have developed with our local primary schools and their fantastic headteachers. Thank you all for your support and I wish you all the best for the future. Mr B Kelly

Family dining

After the half term break, we will be trialing family dining. This is different way of serving lunches and we have decided to try this after feedback from pupils and parents via our annual questionnaires.

We will be assigning every child in Y1-6 a set table in the hall for them to eat their lunch at. Each day, they will eat their lunch with a familiar set of children from across the school. School dinners will be served from each individual table and our older pupils will be trained to help serve their peers; the food will be cooked to order for each specific table and be brought out by staff. This will remove the need for pupils to queue up for their lunch which can be a slow process. On each table, there will be a mixture of school dinners and packed lunches to enable children to have the flexibility to change between the two if desired. We are also hopeful that the change will allow us to have a clear focus on developing communication skills, table manners, knife and fork skills, and allow us to better manage/monitor portion sizes. Nursery and Reception will also be served at the table by the kitchen staff but will still sit with their own year group for consistency.

As part of the change, we will be splitting Years 1-6 into two sittings. These sittings will rotate periodically to allow each group a turn at being 1st or 2nd in the hall. The use of sittings will ensure a consistent number of children are outside at one time. Due to having fewer pupils out at one time, we are going to allow KS1 and KS2 to access the same playground during lunchtime. This will enable us to provide more staff to monitor the playground and also give KS1 chance to use the MUGA. Initially, we'll be running separate KS1 and KS2 activities in the MUGA. As KS1's playground will be empty during lunchtimes, this will allow Reception pupils to use this space and start their transition ready for KS1.

Hopefully this will be a positive change and we will be talking to pupils regularly to get their feedback and adapt as needed. Before the end of the school year, we will review the system and decide if we would like to continue it into the next academic year.

Attendance

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| School End of Year Target | 96% |
| Whole School Figure to Date | 96% |

Below are some reminders on how to support your child's attendance in school.

If your child is not attending school, it is extremely important that you contact school to advise us of the reason for the absence. In line with our safeguarding policy we have a duty of care to our children to ensure that they are safe. We become increasingly concerned when we do not receive communication from parents/carers. This can result in time being spent phoning/sending texts/leaving voicemails and carrying out home visits.

- We ask that you phone school on 0113 2821344 or text on 07797 801419 (this is a free service) before 9am. Please programme these numbers into your phones. If you change your contact details, please advise the office immediately.
- Please inform the school office rather than sending a message via the classroom staff.
- If your child just says they are not feeling too well, but show no sign of sickness, upset stomach or fever then give medicine where appropriate, bring to school and advise the teacher. School will monitor the child and if their health deteriorates we will contact you.
- School starts at 8.50am; please ensure that your child arrives before this time. Being late causes disruption to the class and upset to the child.
- If you are required to take your child out of school during term time, you must complete a leave of absence request form, available from the school office. Although holidays during term time WILL NOT be authorised, a form must still be submitted. REMEMBER if you take your child out of school for a holiday you will run the risk of receiving a fixed penalty notice for the family.
- If your child has a medical appointment, please bring a copy of the letter or appointment card to school, it will be copied for your child's records. If we do not receive this the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. For mid morning/afternoon appointments please try and enable the children to get their registration marks before being collected, this will avoid appointments impacting their attendance. (See Ms Ritson for further information)
- If your child's attendance starts to cause concern you will be contacted to attend a meeting in school to discuss.
- If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact school.

Thank you for your support

Ms M Ritson (Learning Mentor)

Dates for
the Diary:

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| 25 th May | School Closes |
| 4 th June | School Opens |
| 14 th June | Nursery & Reception – Dad's Den Day |
| 15 th June | Training Day - School Closed |
| 25 th June | Reception – Sports Day |
| 26 th June | KS1 Sports Day |
| 27 st June | Nursery - Sports Day |
| 28 th June | KS2 Sports Day |
| 30 th June | Summer Fair 12noon – 3pm |
| 9 th July | KS1 Parents' Transition Meeting |
| 10 th July | Y6 Performance (pm) |
| 11 th July | Y6 Production (Evening) |
| 12 th July | Y6 Leaver's Disco (Evening) |
| 13 th July | Y6 Royds – Last day in School |
| 16 th July | LKS2 Parents' Transition Meeting (After School) |
| 17 th July | UKS2 Parents' Transition Meeting (After School) |
| 19 th July | Summer Disco |
| 19 th July | Transition Day 1 (Whole School) |
| 20 th July | Transition Day 2 (Whole School) |
| 23 rd July | Back to Usual Classes (Not Transition) |
| 25 th July | School Closes |