



# RYE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

I write with an update about attendance and specifically about holiday requests.

Our priority is always the education of all of our pupils and we have to assess the cost of any proposed absence to your child's education and the education of their classmates.

As a school and a Local Authority (East Sussex), attendance has to improve. Attendance rates before the pandemic were below average and the pandemic has further fuelled low attendance rates across the county and within our school. Therefore, attendance rates need to improve.

We are doing all we can to improve our rates of attendance. Some of you will know how closely we work with you to assist you in improving your child's attendance.

- As part of our strategy to improve attendance we reward children who have had improved attendance.
- There is an award for the class with the best attendance.
- We send letters home regularly to inform parents of their child's attendance.
- If we do not hear from parents as to why their child is absent from school, we call the family. If we are unable to establish phone contact, we will endeavour to do a home visit.
- We offer advice and support for families who are finding attendance difficult.
- Some families are on an attendance improvement plan which consists of regular meetings with school staff to work on agreed targets to improve attendance.
- Where possible class teachers call families to follow up on children who are absent and provide work which has been missed.
- Some families work with ESBAS (East Sussex Behaviour and Attendance Service).
- We do not authorise any term time absence for holidays.

This list is not exhaustive, but it is designed to give you an idea into the many ways we are working with families to improve attendance.

Therefore, I hope you understand that when we receive a holiday request form and we decline it, we do it on very good grounds.

As a school we do not authorise any holidays; as we do not deem holidays to be exceptional circumstances in which we can authorise children to be absent from school. This is also the position of the Local Authority. I have copied a section from their website which explains this. I have also included the web address so that you can research this.

"If you want to take your child out of school during term time you should ask the head teacher for permission. Headteachers can only agree absence in exceptional circumstances.

Holidays are not normally considered exceptional circumstances.

If the headteacher does not agree the absence they will give you a written warning. If your child is absent from school for 10 sessions (5 school days) the school may request that we issue a Penalty Notice."

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/attendance-behaviour/holidays-term-time>



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If holiday absence is pursued it will be treated as 'unauthorised'. This means that you may face a fine from the local authority of £60 per parent per child if your child is taken out of school on the proposed dates; this fine increases to £120 per parent per child if not paid within 21 days, and may result in prosecution if not paid within 28 days.

There is a misconception that the school fine the family and that the school keep the money. This is simply NOT the case. The school do not receive any money from fines. The reason the fines are sent from the school to the Local Authority is to ensure that we are following our policy to ensure that we are deterring absence from school and to ensure that there is consistency of approach for all families. All families who miss 5 school days are subject to the same fine from the Local Authority. Once again, this is of no financial benefit to the school. A benefit to the school is that it may prevent some pupils being taken out of school during term time.

I do hope this clarifies our position. We are noticing more and more holiday requests coming into school. We appreciate that many holidays had to be rescheduled after the pandemic and we know families want to enjoy time together. We also know how frustrating it is that many holiday companies seem to put the prices up for the entire 13 weeks a year of school holidays. As school staff, we of course also have to pay these prices, so we do understand the frustration. However, our position has to remain that we do not authorise term time holidays.

We really do appreciate your support and understanding of our mission to improve attendance both at our school and as a school within the East Sussex Local Authority.

With Very Best Wishes,

Miss Martin

Headteacher

### Are you a "Reader Leader"?

Do you know someone who would like to volunteer and become part of the Rye Community Primary team?

Our 'Pupil Reader Leaders' do a wonderful job at tidying and organising our library in the winter when it is warm inside...but come the summer term they would rather be on the playground in the sunshine and we can't blame them!

Our library is well used and loved. We are looking for a volunteer who would be happy to put the books back in their correct home, so our children can continue to find books that fire their imaginations!

Afternoons are quieter in the library; a couple of hours a week would be much appreciated.

Please pop in to the Office and let us know if you or someone from the community is interested.



# PUGWASH



We have been having lots of fun learning this month in the Pugwash Nursery with our 'Splish Splash Splosh' topic in full swing. The children have been investigating with ice - freeing the trapped animals stuck in the 'iceberg', exploring which types of items float and sink. We have been making amazing sea creatures in our craft and junk modelling sessions, as well as learning all about pond life, including the life cycle of a frog. We have also been busy with our 'Squiggle while you wiggle' pre-writing programme - working our muscles to help with all the fabulous mark making the children have been producing. We are looking forward to next term when our ducklings arrive and our school leavers begin their transition sessions - exciting times!



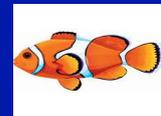
# MINNOWS



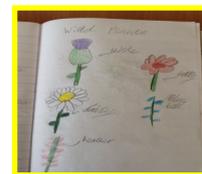
This term, Minnows have been going **green!** Lots of gardening and litter picking, the children worked as a team to build a bug hotel in the Willow Garden and as we have learnt about the harm from landfills, we have started composting our snack leftovers! We have also learnt to appreciate pre-loved items by going out into Rye town, as a class, visiting and each purchasing an outfit from a charity shop. We can't wait to wear them!



# CLOWNFISH



Clownfish are thoroughly enjoying their topic, 'Roots and Shoots'. In English; they have been writing their own versions of Jack and the Beanstalk. In science this term; they have been busy learning about the different parts and functions of trees and plants. They have learnt about deciduous and evergreen trees. Clownfish have been looking at garden and wild plants and drawing some detailed sketches of their favourite plants.





# SEAHORSES



In KS1 we have been learning all about plants. We have learnt about the parts of the plant and the different jobs that they do; we have also learnt what plants need to grow. We have planted a variety of seeds and beans and have been keeping plant diaries to record their growth. Gardening club has helped us to weed our outdoor area and once our plants are a bit bigger, we look forward to putting some of them in our raised beds.



# CUTTLEFISH



In Cuttlefish this term our topic is 'The Lungs Of The Earth' as we have been learning all about the tropical rainforests. We had an amazing morning with 'Our Amazing Animal World' learning about a wide range of animals, many of which were from tropical rainforests. Many of the children were awarded with bravery stickers for holding William, the Royal Python. Mrs Banks, Mr Jenkinson and Mrs Borthwick all earned their bravery stickers too!



# SHARKS

A huge well done to all the children in Sharks class who completed their SATs! It was wonderful to see the children commit themselves to achieving the best that they could! When we weren't doing SATs, we were exploring the wonders of Excel and how we can use spreadsheets to record data. We looked at different attractions around the world and worked out, using formulas, how much it would cost to travel by car to these. The children really enjoyed working on this topic!





# MARLIN



Marlin have had the busiest term to date! Our topic has been focusing on all things allotment and plant-based, looking at where our food comes from and understanding sustainability. We have been working alongside Mrs Leach and the other Year 5/6 classes to keep our school allotment patch and sensory garden looking good with our new strawberry plants! We are very proud of how well the Year 6 children handled their SATs tests; you worked so hard and amazed us all!



## THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE



## CELEBRATIONS



To celebrate The Queens 70th Jubilee we are inviting children into school on Friday 27th May wearing the patriotic colours, red ,white and blue.

Our wonderful PTA have also got together to organise some great events to mark the occasion and to make the day truly memorable for us all.

The children will be eating their special jubilee lunch outside in the playground and they will then have entertainment provided by the PTA. We can't wait!

## Attendance News

### Whole School Attendance

Whole school attendance currently stands at 91.4%

If your child is well and not displaying COVID symptoms please ensure they are attending school.



### Class Percentages \_1st September until 19th May

Minnows 92.2%

Clownfish 90%

Seahorses 91%

Sea Turtles 92.1%

Cuttlefish 92.2%

Barracudas 91%

Orcas 92.9%

Marlin 91.2%

Dolphins 89.6%

Sharks 91.7%

# MONEY SAVING TIPS!



Our wonderful AAC member, Chris Emson, embodies 'Christian Love in Action'. Chris is an inspiration in our local community and has a unique gifting at being able to see a need AND find a solution to meeting it. As well as many other community projects, Chris is part of the Rye Food bank. When I met with Chris and explained that we wanted to help to support our community through the 'cost of living crisis', Chris immediately said that she would support us in helping our families. I then tasked Chris with starting a list of practical ways to help with 'heating and eating'. Chris, then used her natural people skills to ask 'in Chris's words', "the grandma's and Grandpa's of Rye"- for their top tips! Read on for some brilliant, free advice!

**Someone else who gave good advice on the subject writes in Matthew 6...**

<sup>31</sup> "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'

<sup>32</sup> ... your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> ... and he will give you everything you need. New Living Translation.

<sup>34</sup> "So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time. [b]The living Bible

## Heating...

Start by making a rule to turn off the lights when you leave a room and keep the doors closed not to let the warm air out.

Put another jumper on

Make draught excluders by stuffing some old tights with cut up old tights and socks.

Showers are cheaper than baths use a little drop of shower gel on a net ball, you will use less body wash.

### Eating....

Plan your menus for the week; make a list and stick to it.

Never go shopping when you are hungry.

Check the special offers; it's not always the bargain you think it might be.

Often food is reduced early evening in supermarkets.

Only use one ring on your cooker by using a steamer if you have one, potatoes at bottom and vegetables above. Or a colander will do, with the lid of saucepan on top.

A slow cooker is great for this time of the year; pop meat and veg in with your stock and hey presto delicious casseroles!

Make a batch of small cakes for snacks, the children will love them and even help you make them and not so many calories as a chocolate bar.

Fresh fruit is always good as a filler; basic apples, oranges and bananas are fairly cheap.

Avoid readymade meals. Buy where possible, fresh fruit and vegetables.

Batch cook: make a large shepherd's pie, lasagne or pie and freeze half for another day. Label and date.

Make sure your fridge is below 5c.

Love leftovers! Don't throw away leftovers, they can be tomorrow's lunch. Cool leftovers as quickly as possible, ideally within 90 mins, store wrapped and labelled in the fridge. Use within 2 days. When re-heating, food must be steaming hot, do NOT reheat more than once. Do not reheat rice.

Left over vegetables: add an onion, a stock cube and a couple of potatoes, cook and then blitz; a great vegetable soup.

Tins of tomatoes, chick peas, sweetcorn and kidney beans are all good store room items;

**Have a lovely half term. We will see you  
on Monday 6th June.**