

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Head of School, Kelly Martin.

I have been particularly inspired at school lately by the planting we have been doing, as part of the "Rye Blooms" event. I am not a gardener by any stretch of the imagination. However, I am the proud owner of a few houseplants, in pots, in the pots I bought them in!

When buying a plant, I haven't usually got a specific plant in mind, they have all either been purchased from the reduced bin in a supermarket, because they are withering, or I have received them as a gift. All are treated with the same love and care; watered when they look particularly dry and twisted around when one side of the plant starts to look a little "sun burnt"!

However, the other day I thought I would try and do something really "advanced" for me... I thought I would 're-pot' one of these said plants, as it was getting too big for the pot it was in on the kitchen windowsill and I happened to have a nice, spare ceramic pot from an old plant, (which in case you were wondering; hadn't "made it"). So I set about trying to get this plant out of the pot. It wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. The roots had grown around and around the soil and the plant was well and truly stuck! 'Google' informed me that this is known as being "pot bound". The plant had become a prisoner in its own pot; as it hadn't had the room to grow and spread its roots any further than the pot would allow. I learned that this was in fact easily remedied by transferring to a bigger pot, adding a little more soil and a good measure of water. My plant was eventually prized from the pot and will live another day (hopefully).

However, this experience got me thinking about how careful we have to be, not to place limits on ourselves or on our children. We have to work hard to ensure that we don't get so bound up in our present circumstances that we don't give ourselves room to grow. I know the lockdown restrictions have meant that we haven't been able to broaden our "physical horizons" as much. However, we can use this opportunity to broaden our own personal horizons and our perspective. We always have the opportunity to upgrade ourselves to a bigger "pot" by learning a new skill, making a new friend, becoming connected with the world around us, becoming more spiritually aware, starting a new hobby, trying new things. The possibilities are endless! It doesn't matter what we choose to do, as long as we choose to do something! Don't get pot-bound by limiting yourself or others. I shall look forward to you all 'flourishing and blooming' around me as you take on new challenges during this next season.

Kelly Martin

Head of School

PUGWASH

The children's learning focus for this term has been 'Splish, Splash, Splosh'. They have been learning about ducks, water and using language about measure such as "full and empty".

The children are very much enjoying the 'Ready 4 School Music programme' which has been happening every Wednesday this term.

'Ready for School' is a series of music workshops for preschool children moving on to Reception. This focuses on essential skills including speech and language development through music and movement. This will continue in September when they start school.

Class Dojo reminder - Please can parents, who haven't already done so, please sign up to class Dojo. You should have received a link via email. Please speak to Katie if you haven't received this. We use this as a form of communication between home and nursery and you can see updates of learning that we have been completing throughout the week.

Photos- There will be photos for Pugwash children on the morning of Monday 28th June. If your child usually attends nursery on a Monday morning, then we will take them for their photo. If they do not attend on a Monday and you would like your child to have a photo, then please arrive at the hall, first thing in the morning for them to have it taken.

We hope the weather will warm up soon so please can you ensure that you pack sun cream for your child in their bag and apply it before they come to nursery. We can then re-apply during the day.



RECEPTION

This term as part of our topic 'Into the Woods' the children have been considering ways that they can take care of the environment. We have been enjoying using our Forest School site and used a trip to Forest School as an opportunity to litter pick. The children were sad about how much litter they found around school but are determined that they can make a difference. Back in school we had fun making bird feeders, this activity was fantastic for talking about textures.

We have also been showing care for animals in our environment The Minnows and Sardines are currently busy working on their entries for two national competitions; the Young Writers 'My First Riddle' poetry competition and the Royal Mail's 'Hero Stamp' design competition. Wish us luck; although our teachers think we are all already winners!



YEAR 1/2

The Year 1 and 2 children are enjoying their topic 'Ready, Steady, Grow!'

In Science, we have been growing and nurturing our plants.

This term in art we have been studying Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' and creating our own amazing interpretations.



In year 1/2 we also had an R.E. day learning all about the Jewish home. We found out that Jewish families celebrate Shabbat on Friday evening through to Saturday evening; it is a special day of rest and celebration. We also found out about the Mezuzah, a special case attached to the right side of the doorframe. Inside the Mezuzah is the Shema, a special prayer which is said to remind Jewish people of God's presence. We thought about what we would want people to do in our homes and made our own Shema.

YEAR 3/4

Year 3 and 4 have been working extremely hard this term and the progress the children have made is astonishing. We are so proud of the continued effort the children put into their learning and the resilience they show throughout. Last Wednesday, we had a DT day. The children evaluated, designed and made Viking purses. They learned two different stitches to join the fabric together: backstitch and running stitch. They showed incredible concentration and resilience, because threading needles is not easy and needs patience!



YEAR 5/6

In Year 5/6 we have been learning about WW2 from a child's point of view. On Thursday, Marlin had their DT day where we created shelters using a variety of skills and materials - including sawing! The end products were a fantastic piece of work after a lot of effort and time spent planning. We have also finished our fantastic evacuee recounts, before starting our speech writing to end the term. Well done to all for working so hard!



RSHE Curriculum update

"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way." (Dfe)

RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education) became a statutory subject for all schools in England in September 2020. Due to COVID-19, schools were given an extension to ensure staff had appropriate training and could consult with pupils and parents.

We have been teaching RSE at Rye Primary before it became statutory, as we have always believed in the importance of providing children with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe and healthy. We have however made the decision to change the scheme we use to teach to ensure that we are covering all elements of the new curriculum, using materials that reflect modern society, and where rights and responsibilities are taught with equal importance.

The scheme we shall be using is recommended by East Sussex Local Authority and has been adopted by the majority of local schools.

We have consulted with a Parent Working Group who have been able to review the materials and lessons in detail. The parent working group particularly liked how the lessons slowly built up from year to year- so no sudden surprises, and the strong focus on keeping safe.

Whilst the DfE has made this a statutory subject that we must teach here in school, we still recognise and value the role that parents have in supporting their children with these subjects. The Parent Working group, after viewing the materials felt that they would now find it easier to talk to their own children and so we will be making available, upon request, any of the material covered in class. To aid with this we have invested in a range of books and stories that we can also loan out. We will be sharing overviews for your child's year group ahead of the lessons and you will, as always, be most welcome to discuss this area of the curriculum with the class teachers.

RSHE leader in school is Mrs Isted

AAC link member is Amy Biddle





Online Safety

In a world which is now lived more and more 'online'. We felt it would be helpful to share regular e-safety information with you in our whole school newsletters.

In this edition we have some information for you about CEOP.

CEOP is a law enforcement agency, which exists to help keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online.

They can help children and give you, as a parent or carer, advice. A child can make a report directly to them if something has happened online which has made them feel unsafe, scared or worried. This might be from someone they know in real life or someone they have met online.

If a report is made to CEOP about sexual abuse or grooming online it will be read by one of their Child Protection Advisors who will get in contact with their safe adult on the phone number or email address that they give to CEOP, to make sure that they are safe. CEOP will also discuss with you what will happen next.

If a crime has been committed they will work to identify the person or people responsible and bring them into the criminal justice system. The CEOP Thinkuknow website also has information and advice to help you to stay safe if something has happened to you online.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of our pastoral team, the key contacts for this are, Mrs Homewood, Family Liaison Officer, (FLO) and Mrs McDonald, Assistant Inclusion Leader.



Photos

Class photos will be taking place on Thursday 27th May

Sarah Prescott will also be taking Individual photos on:

Wednesday 16th June: MINNOWS, SARDINES, SHARKS , DOLPHINS

Friday 18th June: ALL SCHOOL SIBLINGS all years

Thursday 24th June: CLOWNFISH, SEAHORSES, MARLIN, JELLYFISH

Friday 25th June : SEA TURTLES, CUTTLEFISH, BARRACUDAS, ORCAS

Monday 28th June am : PUGWASH

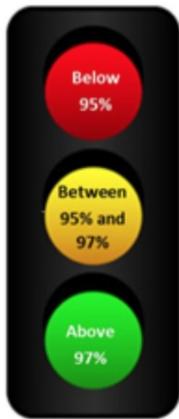
Please remember to send your child to school Rye Smart in full school uniform.

Attendance News

We would like to congratulate our families on the resilience shown over lockdown and how well children returned to school.

We are continuing to contact families where attendance is a concern, If you are worried about your Child's attendance then please speak to your Child's teacher, Alison Homewood (Family Liaison Officer) or the school office.

Traffic Lights



At the end of this term we will be emailing home letters to inform you of your child's attendance percentage and the total sessions missed. These will be sent to all parents.....

If your child receives a red letter this is because their attendance has fallen to 95% or below, you may be invited to an Attendance Improvement Meeting.

If your child receives an amber letter this is because their attendance is currently between 95% and 97% and could become a cause for concern.

If your child receives a green letter this is because their attendance is 97% or higher, this is exactly where it should be – Well done.

Children with high attendance build good friendships and have a better understanding of learning in their lessons. They are able to keep up more easily with new concepts introduced; enabling them to achieve at a higher standard right into secondary education. This is exactly what we want for your child and all our children at Rye Primary.

Minnows	96.2%
Sardines	95.9%
Clown Fish	96.7%
Seahorses	95.1%
Sea Turtle	96.6%
Barracudas	96.0%
Cuttlefish	98.3%
Orcas	95.0%
Sharks	95.0%
Dolphins	94.2%
Marlin	97.2%
Jelly Fish	95.9%

Class Attendance

This is for the period 8th March 2021 until 20th May 2021

Whole School attendance for this period stands at 96%



Holidays

With lockdown easing, lots of us are starting to plan on 'getting away', please remember though, to book your holiday during the school holidays. Holiday taken during term time not only has a negative impact on your child's learning but the absence will not be authorised and could result in a fixed penalty being issued.



Please be advised that if your child has any covid-19 symptoms; high temperature, cough or loss of taste and smell, they have to either isolate with all other household members at home for 10 days or receive a negative test result from a PCR test. LFT kits (which are now available as home test kits from the Government) are NOT to be used in symptomatic cases. The LFT tests are for detecting asymptomatic people (not displaying any symptoms). We will continue to follow the Government guidelines around this.