



Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new academic year at Rydes Hill! We hope all our families had a restful and enjoyable summer break. I am sure you were all very pleased for your children to return to School after the long break! The staff have had two very successful INSET days thinking about the coming year and looking at how we can move Rydes Hill forward. We had some fantastic training on a new maths resource, Numicon, which will predominantly be used in the Pre-Prep Department, but will be available throughout the School. Some of the challenges the staff were set during the training certainly tested our mathematical skills!

WELCOME EVENING

All parents are invited to attend Welcome Evening next Thursday, 13th September. The format will be slightly different from previous years. Parents are invited to drop into the classrooms between 6.45-7.25pm. Teachers will be on hand to welcome you, answer questions and give you information about the class and the topics that will be covered this term. As this is a 'drop in' time, parents will hopefully have time to visit the classrooms of all their children at Rydes Hill. At 7.30pm, Mrs Norville will give a short presentation in the Friend's Hall. She will introduce all the staff and share with parents her vision for the coming year and how we will be moving the School forward. This will be followed by the Friends of Rydes Hill Preparatory School Annual General Meeting at 7.45pm.

PARENTMAIL

We know that you have all received an email about signing up to ParentMail over the holidays as 100% of families have signed up. Well done! The next step is to download the app to your smartphone or tablet if you have one. This will enable you to have full access to the benefits of ParentMail, including online booking of Parents' Evening appointments when the time comes. Thank you to everyone who has embraced this new method of communication with School. We hope it will make everyone's lives easier.

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Please note that there is a slight change to the timings within the School day. Assembly now takes place at 8.30am on a Monday and Friday. This will have a very prompt start so children who are late to School will need to go straight to the Friend's Hall. Break time is at 10.40-10.55am and lunch will be from 12.20-1.25pm. The School day finishes at the usual time. Please remember that the snack you provide for children at break time should only be fruit, vegetables or crackers and cheese. **No sandwiches, crisps, biscuits, cheese strings, fruit winders or other snacks should be sent into School for break time.**

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Stay and Play will now take place in the Dining Hall every day and there will be a themed activity each day (more details on this to follow next week). Prep will take place in the Form One classroom. Parents collecting children from Prep need to come to the School Office, where someone will call up to the classroom for your child to be sent down. There has in the past been a great deal of disruption to Prep sessions due to children being collected every few minutes. If possible, please either collect your child at 4.15pm (when Lower Preparatory finish Prep and either go home or go to Stay and Play) or at 4.45pm.



Kindergarten class on the first day of their School journey



Lower Transition returning to School

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The new exit gates are almost finished. We are pleased with the improved security they now offer our School site. They will be programmed to remain open at key times of the day (e.g. drop off and pick up). At other times, when a car drives towards the gates, they will automatically open. Please can parents remind and encourage their children to use the zebra crossings and pathways.

Please also be aware that we have some yew trees in our grounds. We have carried out a risk assessment on these and all identifiable berries in our grounds. Our Caretaker is also working with the Bursar to remove anything potentially harmful. Our largest yew tree has a tree preservation order and has been here for over fifty years. Please note that children are not allowed to play in the bushes near any of the perimeter fences or on Our Lady's Lawn either during or after School hours. Playing with your children in our grounds after School hours is restricted to playing on the Adventure Playground, supervised and watched by yourself. Please be aware that if the Adventure Playground becomes busy, priority is given to children in Stay and Play. Please talk to your children about never eating plants or berries without your permission and we shall remind them in School. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

You should have received this week an email with a calendar for the autumn term and will receive a paper copy of this today. You will also be receiving a calendar for the whole of the academic year in due course. It is our aim to keep to the dates in the yearly calendar but, as we all know, things do change as time goes on. We will email an updated version of this, with any changes highlighted, at the beginning of each term. You will still receive the termly paper calendar.

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country is one of our most popular after School activities. As such we require parent support to ensure adequate supervision. If you are able to volunteer to help with Cross Country on a Monday after School, please email Mrs Morris di.morris@rydeshill.com Any parent volunteer would need to have a DBS check. If anyone knows of Senior School Pupils (perhaps those completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award) who would be interested in volunteering to help, Mrs Morris would also like to hear from you. Anyone under the age of 16 will not require a DBS check.



SCHOLARSHIP PE LESSONS

Any parents of children in Higher Preparatory or Form One who are interested in sessions to prepare them for applying for a PE Scholarship need to inform the School Office. Children must attend Cross Country on a Monday after School for the fitness element of the preparation and lunchtime sessions on a Friday with Mrs Morris for the skills element. There is no charge for these sessions.



A WARM WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES THIS TERM

Nursery: Henry C, Evie H, Valentin H, Ava M. Charlie N, Annabelle S, Sophie S, Isobelle S, Rosie W and Evie W.

Kindergarten: Grace M, Violet-Mae N, Emily P, Ruby S and Harri S.

Upper Transition: Josie B, Maria R.

Higher Preparatory: Eva De G, Ines R

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Nursery Teaching Assistant, Miss Gee and her partner, on the arrival of their baby daughter, Sienna, on 13th July. (Photo left).

Congratulations also to Ruby B in Upper Transition and her parents on the arrival of baby Evie.



4th Sept	Kara H
6th Sept	Astrid K
9th Sept	Imani T
12th Sept	Charlie N
13th Sept	Dunni B

Middle Prep Viking Museum Day at the end of the Summer Term

