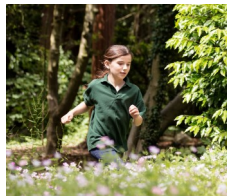




RYDES HILL

PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER: Fri 15th September 2023



Dear Parents

PARENTAL FEEDBACK

Thank you to those of you who responded to last years 'parents survey'. We received 50 responses which were overall extremely positive. The survey told us that parents particularly appreciate the family-like and community feel at Rydes Hill, the small class sizes, our excellent teaching staff, and traditional values. Additionally, a large proportion of our parents commented on how happy their child is at Rydes Hill. Naturally, some common areas of improvement were identified which we have considered over the summer and are summarised below along with our actions.

- **Feedback on child's progress and areas of development.** For 2023-2024, our teaching staff have committed to ensure each parent is made aware of their child's areas for development and next steps, so everyone is aligned in their commitment to support each child. Parents should notice the first changes at the first Parent Consultation evening in October.
- **Food quality and supporting children to make healthy choices.** For 2023-2024 our catering team from Holroyd Howe have made some initial changes to the menu, and the food on offer to pupils will continue to evolve over this academic year and beyond. The most notable changes that can be seen immediately, is that all white flour-based items such as pasta and bread have been switched to wholewheat and white rice has been replaced with brown rice. There is a heavier focus on fruit for pudding, with both whole fruit and fruit salad being on offer daily. November marks the National Veg Pledge and World Vegan Day, so the catering team will be marking these events with tasting tables to encourage our pupils to try new and exciting vegetables, as well as testing some new vegetarian and vegan recipes. We are also in discussion with our milk supplier to switch to organic milk.
- **Inconsistent communication.** For 2023-2024, we intend on launching a new 'parents page' on our website that will contain a notice board for the current and upcoming week, with confirmed details of activities including required uniform etc. The parents page will also include a revised and interactive parents e-handbook which will be completely up to date and will include information on our policies, procedures, uniform lists etc. Teaching staff will be given a checklist before the start of each term to ensure that they have communicated everything that is required in a timely manner.

Thank you again, for your openness, positivity, and constructive feedback. We intend on running the parents survey again in the summer term. If you have any feedback that you'd like to share before then you are encouraged to do so. If you'd prefer to speak to a non-academic member of staff Mrs Rutt, our marketing manager, is available on Monday to Wednesdays or can be emailed at polly.rutt@rydeshill.com

INFORMAL WELCOME EVENING

To welcome everyone back to the new School year, we will be repeating our very popular informal, family focused Welcome Evening. This was a great success last year. This will take place on Friday 22nd September 6.30-8.00pm. The aim of this event is for families to come together at School, bringing a dish of food to share (serving roughly 10 people). We will put all the food out for everyone to enjoy and parents can socialise while the children play (hopefully outside, weather permitting!) Please put the date in your diary and complete the ParentMail form when it is sent out. Please remember that all food must be nut free.

BALLET PICK UP

The Upper Transition ballet lesson finishes at 3.30pm. The children will be taken to the Dining Hall and parents should collect them from there. Please can parents not come to the Hall door and refrain from peeking through the windows, as this disturbs the lesson.



THE HUB

Over the summer, a great deal of work has been done to strip out the old, rather outdated computing suite, and replace it with a space that we hope will inspire, motivate and enable our children to explore the digital world. There has been great debate about what to call this room; we will be teaching a STEAM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths) that will extend beyond this room and into the classrooms. However, a STEAM room had connotations of a spa! We have instead settled on 'The Hub'. We have brand new iPads, laptops, a green screen, robots, desks and seating that are flexible and allow children to choose how best to learn. Still to come are white boards for design on the walls. This will be used by children across the School, and we hope they will be coming home talking about the exciting lessons they have there. The Hub will be on show at our Open Morning on 8th October, so do go up and have a look at the changes. We would like to thank the FRHPS for their fundraising for the set of MARTY robots, and a very generous Alumnus for her donation of £3000 towards The Hub.

CAR PARK SAFETY

Please can parents remember the speed limit on our site is 5mph. Cars should reverse into the parking bays and, if you intend to drop and go, please make sure that you either pull into the bays adjacent to the front lawn, or park up in a parking bay rather than blocking the road or taking up multiple spaces. The Zebra Crossing is to allow children to cross safely, so please check on both sides of the Crossing before proceeding, as children can sometimes be hidden by parked cars. Thank you all for your co-operation in keeping our children safe.

NEW YEAR, NEW NAMES

Congratulations to our staff who got married over the summer holidays. This has prompted some name changes! We now have Mrs Pearce in the School Office (previously Miss Craig) and our housekeeping team is now ably led by Mrs Boyton (formerly Miss Knight).

HAPPY SMILES HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

We are delighted to announce Happy Smiles Holiday Club will be running during October half term, on Tuesday 31st October and Wednesday 1st November. Happy Smiles is open to all children from Kindergarten to Form One. The Club will run from 9am to 4pm. To book your child a space, please complete a booking form (found at the end of this Newsletter) or contact Mrs Smillie at sarah.smillie@rydeshill.com

Mrs Norville

St Catherine's U9-U11 Cross Country Results!

On Tuesday 12th September we travelled to St Catherine's for our first sporting event of the year, the **U9-U11 Annual Cross Country** event. The girls had worked hard in their PE lesson, running in a timed trial, and from these results a team of 12 girls was selected. There were 10 schools competing in the event, each with a maximum team of 6 girls per age group. We entered 6 girls from MP in the U9 race, and 6 girls from HP/F1 in the U11 race. Competition was **VERY** tough but our girls did themselves, and us, proud and ran their best. The schools involved were:

Rydes Hill, St Catherine's, Notre Dame, Danes Hill, St Teresas, St Hilary's, St Ives, Wonersh, Shamley Green, Holy Trinity and Barrow Hills.

There were individual awards presented for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each age group, and also an overall team award per age group. A huge 'well done' to all our girls for their achievements, and a special mention to **Miru O (MP) who came 6th** and **Emma W (MP) who came 7th out of 60 runners in the U9 race** – what an AMAZING result!

Thank you to all the Parents who came over to St Catherine's to support our girls.

PE Department



Silver Awards this week			Special Awards this week	
YEAR GROUP	EXCELLENT WORK	EXCELLENT CONDUCT	Science Award: Cody L (LT) for lovely contribution to our topic on senses.	
Nursery	Ethan G	Ada W	RE Award: Mahnoor M (LT) for lovely work on the Creation Song.	
Kindergarten	Alexander S	Oliver B	French Award: Mia M (KG) for excellent participation and recollection of vocabulary.	
Lower Trans	James McG	Mahnoor M	PE Award: Miru O & Emma W (MP) for coming 6th and 7th out of 60 runners at St Catherines Cross Country.	
Upper Trans	Wilfred M	Evey S	Forest School Award: Isabelle C (LT) for her artistic imagination, making a beautiful sensory bracelet using autumn colours.	
Lower Prep	Fenella L	Anna L	Music Award: Freya B (F1) for a fantastic start to piano this term and fantastic practicing.	
Middle Prep	Stephanie B	Myra S	Kindness Award: Arya S (MP) for putting so much effort into supporting her sister at the Cross Country event.	
Higher Prep	Shayna A	Claire K	Special Award: All of Kindergarten for coming into School without their parents so fantastically.	
Form One	Jaime P	Freya B		

Diary dates for the next two weeks	
Fri 22nd Sept	6.30pm - Informal Welcome Evening for current parents and children.

Happy Birthday!

14th Sept	Sara M
16th Sept	Thea K
18th Sept	Lucy A-Z
18th Sept	Miru O
20th Sept	Emily H

House Points for this week			
CAMPION	GERALD	PATRICIA	PETER
114	132	92	101



Click here to view this week's 'The Wednesday Word':

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/happiness?pid=MTA101634&v=40.3>



St Catherine's U9-U11 Cross Country Results!



War of the Roses re-enactment by Higher Preparatory





Happy Smiles half term holiday club

Where: Kindergarten classroom, Rydes Hill School

When: Tuesday 31st October and Wednesday 1st November

What time: 9am to 4pm

Who: Staffed by Mrs Smillie, Miss Hobson and Mrs Stockham

Cost: £40 per day or £75 for two days

Open to all children from Kindergarten to Form One

Activities will include:

Tuesday –

- Spooky Halloween fun! Dress up if you dare!
- Halloween biscuit decorating
- Outdoor play – adventure playground
- Hide and seek
- Halloween dancing and dance competition with prizes!

Wednesday -

- Autumn crafts. Bring your pumpkins to Forest School for the animals to enjoy!
- Creative activities for older children such as colouring, hama beads, loom bands etc.
- Games on the tennis court
- Making bonfire night breadstick sprinklers!
- Karaoke

Please send your child to Happy Smiles with a **water bottle, a morning snack and a nut free packed lunch**. If there is a particular toy or game that they would like to share with their friends they can bring that too. We will be outside a lot so please also provide a coat.

Payment by bank transfer please to:

Mrs Sarah Smillie, account number: 89179986 sort code: 600733

I would like my child to attend Happy Smiles on:

Tuesday 31st October _____

Wednesday 1st November _____

Child's name: _____ Emergency contact no: _____

Any allergies and/or medical conditions we need to be aware of?: _____

----- Signed: _____

GUILD FORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Animal Magic



Including Peter and the Wolf

Conductor Darrell Davison
Narrator David Leonard
Woodwinds Michael Copley

Sunday 24th September 3.30pm

Guildford Spectrum GU1 1UP <https://bit.ly/GSOAnimalMagic>

Tickets £10 (adult) £5 (children)

Family: £25 (2 adults + 2 children, or 1 adult + 3 children)

