



RYDES HILL

PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER: Fri 17th December 2021



Dear Parents

MESSAGE FROM MRS KATIE CARDONA, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

When Mrs Norville offered me the opportunity to include a message in the end of term newsletter, I jumped at the chance.

The Governors recognise how fortunate we are to have such an enthusiastic and positive parent body. I would like to thank you for your support in 2021 and the contribution you have made to ensure the continuing success of Rydes Hill.

The Governors are very grateful to Mrs Norville and her outstanding team for guiding the School through the challenges which 2021 has presented. We know that this would not be possible without your help and involvement.

We feel confident and positive about the future, not least because of the continuing success and happiness of our pupils, our dedicated staff, the opening of our new Nursery facility and the creation of new Performing Arts studio. As a School community, we look forward to celebrating further achievements together in 2022.

In the meantime, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

Well done to everyone for making it to the end of the longest term of the year. There have certainly been times when it has felt long, and our wonderful staff team have gone above and beyond to cover the myriad of absences we have had across the term. What everyone needs, I am sure, is a chance to rest and recharge ahead of the New Year.

We are currently receiving daily updates from the Department for Education with the latest information on the rules we must follow. We will continue to adhere to these rules in order to try to keep everyone safe. I ask that, as many people intend to travel and mix more widely over Christmas, that you also adhere to the rules set out by Government. I would strongly recommend that all parents give their child an LFD test before returning to School in January. Thank you for your support with this. If your child tests positive on a PCR test over the holidays, please do still let me know as we have to keep a track of positive cases within the School community.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Thank you to Middle Prep, Higher Prep and Form One for their superb rendition of A Christmas Carol on Thursday evening. The singing and acting were superb, along with the visual spectacle of beautiful costumes! Well done to all those who took part and thank you to Mrs Lappage, Miss Boyle, Mrs Rowson, Mrs Wood, Miss Quinn and Mrs Flude for all their hard work to help the girls give a superb performance.

If parents would like to donate to Great Ormond Street Hospital as part of our Christmas fundraising, the link is still live on the ParentMail shop. Thank you for your generosity.

STAFFING NEWS

As I shared in a recent newsletter, Mr Rob will be retiring after Christmas. His final working day will be at the end of January. The FRHPS are arranging collections on behalf of the parents. We will have further details of how we will celebrate his retirement nearer the time.

Congratulations to Miss Craig, one of our wonderful School Secretaries, who got engaged at the weekend. We wish her and her fiancé, Martin, every happiness in the future.



WELLBEING WEDNESDAY

After Christmas, children in Lower Transition to Middle Prep will have weekly mindfulness and well being sessions with Mrs J Smillie each Wednesday. Mrs Smillie has been trained in mindfulness for children and will teach children techniques that they can use both in and out of the classroom. Kindergarten have already started using some of the techniques with Mrs Smillie on a Thursday and Friday and this will continue in the Spring Term. There will be a Mindful Moments drop in session on a Wednesday lunchtime for Higher Prep and Form One children. After Easter, the timetable will be adapted so that all the classes will eventually have a weekly session. We see this as a valuable addition to our curriculum offering. If parents have any questions, please speak to me or Mrs J Smillie.

AFRICA DAY IN LOWER TRANSITION

Lower Transition have spent a wonderful term learning about Africa and as a special round up to the topic participated in a fun filled 'Africa Day'. The class looked fantastic in their African clothing and enjoyed African dancing, craft and food tasting! Special thanks to Mrs Morris with her wonderful knowledge on African food and preparing such delicious treats.

Mrs Norville



Performing Arts Awards

Pre Prep Music Award:	Leah Y (LT)
Prep Music Award:	Mahika M (HP)
Performing Arts Award:	Ruby S (LP)

House Points for this week

CAMPION	GERALD	PATRICIA	PETER
64	46	57	52

Happy Birthday!

17th December	Lucas M
17th December	Sebastian W
17th December	Isaac Y
18th December	Tito B
20th December	Evin M
24th December	Esmé H
24th December	Janel J
26th December	Aurelia P
30th December	Isabelle H-F
5th January	Leah Y
9th January	Isabella M



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

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



You can win bonus donations up to £50 for Rydes Hill every day during December in #easyfundraising's new Spin to Win giveaway.

It's completely free to enter, for your chance to win simply visit:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/spin-to-win?utm_campaign=raise-



Christmas Lunch!



A Christmas Carol



Kindergarten learning about their sense of smell



Upper Transition making bags for reindeer food



Nursery and Kindergarten roasting marshmallows in Forest School



Christmas Craft in Lower Prep and Middle Prep



Christmas Party Day—Staff Panto, a visit from Father Christmas and carols with Father Roy.



**COVID-19
HASN'T
GONE
AWAY**

Covid-19 testing guidance for children in Year 6 and below



Lateral flow tests generally shouldn't be used for children under 5 years. Do not use lateral flow tests on anyone displaying symptoms.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- a **high temperature** – this means they are hot to touch on their chest or back
- a **new continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot more for an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a **loss or change to sense of smell or taste** – this means you have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Showing symptoms (this is day 0)

Keep the child at home & tell their early years/primary setting.

Get a confirmatory PCR test. Call 119 or book a test online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Negative result

Return to early years/primary setting if child is well (note: you should still make a decision as normal about whether your child is well enough to return)

Positive result

Day (1-10) Continue self-isolating for 10 days after first day of symptoms.

Anyone aged 5 years and over, who has been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate, is now strongly advised to take a rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days (or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive if this is earlier). If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate and book a PCR test

If you are aged over 18 years and 6 months and are not fully vaccinated and you have been informed by NHS Test and Trace that you are a contact of a person who has had a positive test, you are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate

Under 5s are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily rapid lateral flow testing.

Return to early years/primary setting if child is well

For more information visit surreycc.gov.uk/coronavirus

**KEEP
SURREY
SAFE**