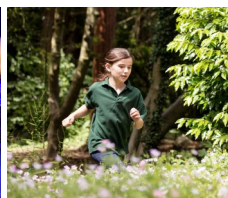




RYDES HILL

PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER: Fri 28th January 2022



Dear Parents

POSITIVE RESULTS

For once, we are able to talk about positive results and it be a good news story! We are starting to hear from Senior Schools with the results for our Form One girls. The process this year has been different (again!) from in previous years, but as always, our girls have shown confidence, adaptability, and the wonderful Rydes Hill Spirit. We will share all the results in full when we have them, but we are already incredibly proud of all our Form Ones and their many achievements.

COVID CASES

As you will have seen from my increasingly fraught emails over last weekend, we have had an explosion of COVID cases in School since returning from the Christmas holidays. Both staff and children from across the School have been affected. In the past week we have had over 30 cases. I very much appreciate the support you have given the School during this difficult time. Managing those in School as well as those at home (especially when we had no working internet) has been a challenge. The situation seems to be calming a little. However, please can parents remain vigilant and continue to test their child when there has been a positive case in the class or at home. Children who have tested positive have commonly had tummy ache / upset stomach, so this is another symptom to watch out for. If you have any concerns or questions about how we are managing the situation in School, please do not hesitate to contact me.

MR ROB

This week marks the end of an era as we bid a very fond farewell to the fantastic Mr Rob. He has worked at the School for almost 10 years and in that time has been crucial in ensuring that our School and grounds are safe, function properly and look beautiful. He has also turned his hand to a myriad of jobs, including making the beautiful mud kitchens used by Nursery and Kindergarten, making the planters at the front of School and cladding the front of the new Nursery buildings. We would like to thank Mr Rob wholeheartedly for all he has done for Rydes Hill. We wish him and 'Mrs Rob' many long, happy and healthy years of retirement.

SENIOR SCHOOL FAIR

Parents of children in Lower Prep, Middle Prep and Higher Prep have been invited to our Senior School Fair in School next Tuesday 1st February. The Fair will start at 6.30pm and will run until 8pm. There are ten Senior Schools in attendance, all of whom are keen to meet parents and talk about what they have to offer our children. Most parents have opted to come for the earlier slot (6.30pm) but if you are able to come slightly later this may be advisable so that the flow of visitors is spread out a little. There will be a talk for Higher Prep parents in the HP classroom at 7pm where I will talk through the process of applying to schools (including State Schools), applying for scholarships and what we can do to help and support the process. Two parents per child are welcome to attend, but the event is not intended for children. Please wear a mask throughout and LFD test prior to arrival.

LATE ARRIVALS

We are having an increasing number of children who are arriving for Main School after 8.20am. Registration is at 8.20am and teaching begins at 8.30am. Children who arrive late often miss the teaching input of the lesson, resulting in the teacher having to try to recap for one child. This has a negative impact on all the children in the class. Please can all parents ensure that their children arrive at School on time.



RYDES HILL FAMILY

Thank you to the many of you who have offered help in the past few weeks when the number of staff isolating has been increasing. Your offers are very kind but, as we are all too well aware, we can only take up offers of help from those who have full and recent Rydes Hill DBS checks. To that end, we have been assisted by staff who have worked on their days off. We also have a team of Governors on hand to come in and help; many thanks to Mrs Cardona, our Chair of Governors, who took on a new role as Kindergarten Teaching Assistant this week. We will continue to aim for as close to 'business as usual' as we can and pray that we move from pandemic to endemic status soon!

ONLINE SAFETY SESSION FOR PARENTS

We are pleased to be welcoming Sharon Girling OBE to School on Thursday 10th February. Sharon is a former police officer who retired from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) following thirty years' service. She was at the forefront of a national and international response to online child abuse and developed the processes and procedures that led to the creation of CEOP. She is currently conducting training programmes for schools, law enforcement and businesses both nationally and internationally. She will work with children in Lower Transition to Form One throughout the day followed by training for staff. She will be running a training session for parents at **7.30pm on Zoom**. We hope as many parents as possible will be able to attend as Sharon's sessions are hugely valuable in helping parents to understand the online world their children inhabit and how to help keep them safe. Having attended several of her sessions before, I cannot recommend her highly enough. Zoom details will be sent to parents nearer the time.

LOWER PREPARATORY BAKE SALE

Unfortunately we have had to postpone the Lower Prep bake sale on Monday 31st January. We will reschedule for another date.

Mrs Norville



Silver Awards this week

YEAR GROUP	EXCELLENT WORK	EXCELLENT CONDUCT
Nursery	Alana B	Edward F
Kindergarten	Esme H	Luna H
Lower Trans	Annabelle S	Leah Y
Upper Trans	Mia Z	Evie W
Lower Prep	Emily P	Alayna K
Middle Prep	Amelia W-C	Alana W
Higher Prep	Liann W	Josie B
Form One	Emilia H	Cara Mc

Diary dates for next week

Mon 31st Jan	Bake Sale POSTPONED.
Tues 1st Feb 6:30pm	Senior Schools Fair at Rydes Hill.
Thurs 3rd Feb	Middle Prep trip to King Edward's to see Bugsy Malone.

House Points for this week

CAMPION	GERALD	PATRICIA	PETER
56	57	69	61



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

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

Special Awards this week

French Award: Soraya S (HP) for excellent participation in class and demonstration of intense focus during a grammar explanation.

Drama Award: Arya and Myra S (UT) for their news reports.

Science Award: Emily B (MP) for her independent research on how weight affected her parachute.

Ballet Award: Ruby B (HP) for gaining distinction in her Grade 2 exam.

Music Award: Esme H and Isabel C (KG) for creative work on the drums when we were outside.

PE Award: Kiana A (UT) for her moving into a space on the netball court.

Kindness Award: Rachel F (F1) for clearing up in the dining hall without being asked.

Special Award: All the Rydes Hill staff for stepping up, helping out, doing extra and keeping everything going!

Special Award: Mr Rob for being the most amazing caretaker for the past 10 years at Rydes Hill. We wish him every happiness in his retirement.

Happy Birthday!

24th January	Edward F
24th January	Isla W
25th January	Evey S
25th January	Ruby S



You can win bonus donations up to £50 for Rydes Hill every day during January 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-



Lower Preparatory working on their Netball skills in PE



Lower Transition creating a woodland scene in Forest School



Nursery enjoying the Adventure Playground



Mr Rob's Last Day



Lots of fun with Cody the dog

