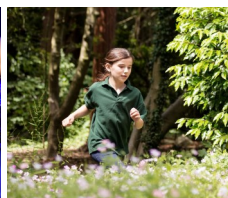




# RYDES HILL

PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER: Fri 8th January, 2021



Dear Parents

I would like to start by wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2021. I have to admit that I have started the New Year with a very heavy heart. To be back in lockdown, with most children learning from home and infection rates rising is a challenge for all of us. The difference this time around is that we know what works, what amazing things our children, teachers and parents are capable of, and we know that high quality learning can happen remotely.

Remote learning at Rydes Hill is slightly different this term and is in line with the Remote Learning Policy that was sent to you at the beginning of the academic year. We have not as yet made use of the Government Job Retention Scheme (furlough) this term so that we can have all specialist teachers providing lessons remotely. Teaching assistants are supporting the key worker children we have in School, as well as hearing readers and providing 1:1 support via Zoom.

Some parents will have received their child's timetable this week and have been pleased with the number of live sessions and the variety of subjects being covered. Some will have felt a little overwhelmed and worried about how to manage the number of Zoom calls, often for more than one child, alongside a full-time job. I completely understand these concerns. Each parent can only do as much as they are able to do. We all must juggle our work and home lives, meaning that what each child can access will be different. Please do not worry about this. From last time, we know that we can successfully help children to catch up where there are gaps.

The Government has said that they will review the situation regarding schools on 18<sup>th</sup> January, but they have also indicated that this lockdown could be extensive. With this in mind, we will review our own provision in the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January, following any Government announcement. Parents will receive a ParentMail form at that time so that they can give feedback on how things are going. We are fortunate to have so many parents who have been forthcoming with their praise for our online learning, and this helps to motivate us all to keep going with this very difficult way of teaching. However, if you are having difficulties or finding that things are not working as you would like, please email your child's teacher, and copy me in. We can then work together to try to solve any problems that you may be having as quickly as possible.

I truly hope and pray that this lockdown is short and that children can return to the classroom as quickly as possible. Assemblies will continue as last time, so I am sure to see some of you on Zoom over the coming weeks. I hope your home learning goes well and urge you to remember that none of us can do everything. We are in an unprecedented situation which nobody planned for. To quote Sister Campion; 'we must do our best and God will do the rest.'

## **WELCOME TO NEW JOINERS**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Nursery Assistant, Mrs Zoë Spykerman, and new joiners to Rydes Hill this term: Qiao Qiao X in Upper Transition and Edward F, Alan H, Kavi K, Annabelle W, Millie D and Ethan G in Nursery.

## **KEY WORKER CHILDREN**

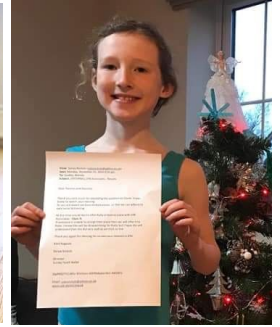
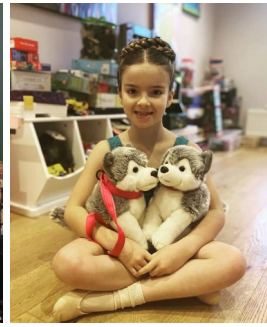
If your child is being supervised in School as a Key Worker child, they will be in a group of mixed age children supervised by a teaching assistant. All teachers in school will be teaching their classes on Zoom. The teaching assistant will be available should there be technical difficulties and helping to maintain focus. They will be unable to check which work the children should have completed and how much they have or haven't done. Given the number of children in the group and the age ranges being taught, this would be an impossible task. Key worker parents need to check their children's work regularly and decide if any time at home needs to be dedicated to any finishing off.

**Mrs Norville**



## BALLET SUCCESS

Congratulations to Eliana, Mahika and Ruby B (MP) who successfully auditioned for the Surrey Youth Ballet Associate Programme. This is particularly impressive given that only 9 children in total were accepted into this age group. Thank you to Miss Anna for all her hard work with our Rydes Hill ballet dancers.



## Happy Birthday!

4th January	Christina D
5th January	Leah Y

5th January	Ava B
15th January	Morayo F

15th January	Emi S
17th January	Jonah A

## First Day back for all of Nursery





## First Day back for all of Nursery

