



Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new academic year at Rydes Hill! We especially welcome: Sum Yee C, Luke F, Alexandra G, Arthur G, Maddie G, Alan H, Alexia K, Fenella L, Isabella L, Anna L, Harriet McC, Wilfred M, Ziad M, George O, Zoe P, Sophia T, Theo T and Connor W, to Nursery; George B and Joshua L to Kindergarten; Jonah A to Lower Transition; Tom B and Hugh L to Upper Transition; Mary K to Lower Preparatory; Cara McC to Middle Preparatory; and Isabel L and Angel L to Higher Preparatory. We are very proud of all our new joiners for the way in which they have settled this week.

STAFFING NEWS

We welcome three new adults to Rydes Hill this year. Madame Hopgood has joined us as French teacher, taking over from Madame Gloyens who left at the end of last term. Mrs Ribeiro joins us as a volunteer teaching assistant in Upper Transition on Monday and Thursday mornings, replacing Mrs Ortiz who left at the end of last term. Ms Knight joins us as a lunchtime supervisor, replacing Ms Pett who left at the end of last term and Ms Walker joins the cleaning team, replacing Mrs Jagdeo who left at the end of August. We are sure you will make all our new staff feel very welcome.

We are very sad to announce that Mrs Dennis and her family will be leaving Rydes Hill at the end of this term. They have been given the opportunity to move to Australia and their visa applications have been granted far quicker than they had thought. We will be very sorry to lose such a wonderful family, including an amazing Lower Transition teacher! We are hoping to fill Mrs Dennis' vacancy within our existing staffing but more details on this will be given once everything is finalised.

SUMMER JOBS

The School has been a hive of activity during the summer. All Year Round Nursery has been busy each day and even enjoyed a day trip to Alice Holt Forest. Mr Mick and Mr Rob have worked so hard around the School, building a new boot rack for Forest School, a new sand pit for Nursery as well as lots of decorating and maintenance. We have had external contractors in to replace the rotten windows in the conservatory and library, concrete over a space at the end of the car park for two additional parking bays as well as the rather sticky job of removing a bee's nest (and a full bin load of honey) from the roof space above Form One. The tree surgeons came at the start of the holidays and we are very pleased to announce that our large Wellingtonia tree is not as sick as we had first thought! The trunk is solid and, after clearing any branches that appeared to be damaged and reducing the canopy size, the tree is now in a much better state. We will still need to be careful in high winds, as with all of our trees, but the fencing has now been removed and the children can make full use of the play area.

There were a huge number of clubs taking place in the holidays and I would like to thank all the staff who enabled these to run, including the teachers who ran clubs as well as the admin staff who fielded queries and questions from parents. Ms O'Neill also had a busy summer with admissions; many tours and taster sessions took place during the summer holidays and numbers have increased in all classes (other than Form One, which is already full). I would like to thank all of our hard working and dedicated staff team for their work during the Summer. It is very much a myth that working in a School means long holidays with nothing to do!

HERITAGE DAY

Rydes Hill will be taking part in Heritage Open Day on Saturday 14th September. The School will open to visitors at 11am with a tour, led by the wonderful Miss Boyle, at 11.30am. Miss Boyle has a wealth of fascinating information about our beautiful School so do come along to hear our story as well as seeing 'behind the scenes'.

PE KIT

It would appear that an error was made in some of the information in the 'Parent Handbook' about PE kit in the Prep Department. Girls need a PE top, not polo shirt, for PE. The red PE socks (designed for holding up shin pads) need only be worn when shin pads are worn i.e. for hockey. At all other times, white socks may be worn.

WELCOME EVENING

You will hopefully have noticed from the 'Calendar of Events' that Welcome Evening has been scheduled for Tuesday 17th September this year. There are two functions of this evening. Firstly, you will be able to see your child's class and meet their teacher. We have produced booklets with some 'key information' which you will be able to collect on the evening. Following feedback at the Parents' Forum, each teacher will also be giving a presentation on how Maths is taught in the class. Kindergarten and Nursery will give information about Maths and Phonics / Reading. Classrooms will be open from 6.30pm.

Teachers will begin their presentations at 6.45pm and these will run for about 40mins. If only one parent is able to attend and you have more than one child at the School, we recommend that you use the 15mins before the talks start to collect the relevant booklets from the other classes. It may be beneficial to attend the talk for the oldest of your children. At 7.30pm, we will all congregate in the Hall so that I can introduce all the staff and give some details about the year ahead. This will be followed by the Friends of Rydes Hill Prep School (FRHPS) Annual General Meeting.

CHAPLAINCY TEAM

In assembly this week I spoke to the children about starting a Chaplaincy Team. I have explained that Chaplaincy is about helping people to have a closer relationship with God. The group will be made up of two children from each class, UT-F1. The children can be of any faith. The children will be helping to plan liturgies and masses, supporting Pupil Prayer Group, organising class prayer areas etc. If your child is interested in a role, they need to write a letter to Mrs Hudson and me explaining why they would like to join the team. The deadline for this is next Friday.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The FRHPS will be offering the chance for children to make personalised Christmas Cards again this year. The only difference is that **all artwork will be completed at home** rather than in School. This gives parents full control over what the finished card will look like! Please see flyer attached. Next week you will receive a pack with the artwork template and instructions for what to do. **The deadline for artwork is Friday 27th September.**

Mrs Norville

Silver Awards		
YEAR GROUP	EXCELLENT WORK	EXCELLENT CONDUCT
Nursery	Henry C	Valentin H
Kindergarten	Mia Z	Alex W
Lower Trans	Ruby B	Harri S
Upper Trans	Annabel S	Jaime P
Lower Prep	Aurelia P	Flossy D
Middle Prep	Alina W-C	Cara McC
Higher Prep	Imogen F	Tillie T
Form One	Eva D-G	Isabelle D

Special Awards	
PE Award: Mary K (LP) for her enthusiasm and effort in her first Rydes Hill PE lesson	
Science Award: Angel L (HP) for her enthusiastic start to the term.	
Music Award: Tillie W (UT) for enthusiastic participation.	
Special Award: Lola B (HP) for helping welcome new children to our School	
Kindness Award: Tito (LT) for helping another child with their fruit snack	

Happy Birthday!

9th September	Imani T
12th September	Charlie N
13th September	Dunni B



Back to School!



You can WIN a £250 Argos voucher for yourself as well as a £250 donation for FRHPS in the #easyfundraising Back to Uni Giveaway! It's easy and FREE to enter – just visit the competition page and click any of the listed retailers before midnight on Sunday 8th September. Visit competition page: <http://efraising.org/waWRgKhffz>