



# Ripponden J&I News

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear parents/carers,

We are at the end of the first half term of 2024 and while it has been a short one, it has whizzed by! Having said that, we have certainly packed a lot in! Grab a cuppa for this bumper newsletter!

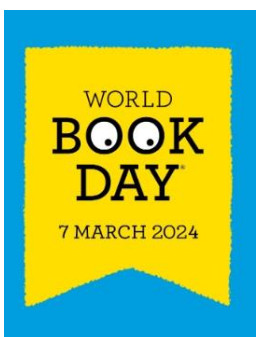
Thank you for your understanding during the snow this week. As always, our priority will always be the safety and wellbeing of our school family and making sure the children and staff got home safe was of upmost importance. We updated using email, Facebook, Dojo and text – apologies if you received the messages multiple times, but better to have them in different forms, rather than not at all! At least people can't fault our communication and say they didn't know!

We break up now for half term – please remember our February Family Challenge. We want to see pictures of our families getting out and about these holidays. Be as active and inventive as possible! Please send these to the Facebook page or to the office – [office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk) These will then be put together into a lovely display in school.

When we return from the holiday, the Monday is a staff training day. Busy Bees will not be open on this day, as all staff will be attending the training. School will open for children on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.**

Have a great week and looking forward to seeing everyone then,

Headteacher



## World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

For the previous couple of years, we have asked for donations of books for World Book Day, to stock our wonderful Woodland Room. This has been so impactful and as a result, we have so many amazing books in there! This year, for World Book Day, we are asking that all children (and adults!) come to school in their pyjamas and bring a favourite bedtime story to share. We will also be doing some lovely book and story-related activities to celebrate the love of reading and joy of books!

## Car Park Concerns

A reminder, please, to be very careful around the car park, especially when picking up after a club. There have been occasions where parents have been walking their children through the car park while cars are trying to manoeuvre. Please take lots of care and always use the path by the bungalow. In addition, please remember that the car park is only for use by staff cars, not parents. This includes after school. Many thanks for your understanding.



### **Bye bye, Mrs Holmes!**

Mrs Holmes has been an integral part of our school community for some time now. As you know, she has a visual impairment and has been a huge role model for our children in terms of inclusion, diversity and resilience. Unfortunately, her vision has deteriorated significantly and so she will now be taking early retirement. Mrs Holmes has had a massive impact on the whole school community, not just the children she directly works with. Her work on the Queen's Jubilee Garden, along with the fundraising efforts including marmalade sandwiches and plant pot designing will go down in Ripponden History! Her voluntary before school clubs – Penny for Them and Card Trading have been hugely popular and are incredibly missed. Jo is an absolute ray of sunshine, with an extraordinary skillset, ready smile and infectious laugh, one that we all really miss around the school.



As Mrs Holmes' life has had to significantly change, she is now on the list to get her own Guide Dog. Due to the whole-school impact Jo has had on the school, we thought it only fitting that we raise money in her name for this very worthy cause. We have a lady from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association coming into school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February to talk to the children in assembly about the work of Guide Dogs and the costs associated with them.



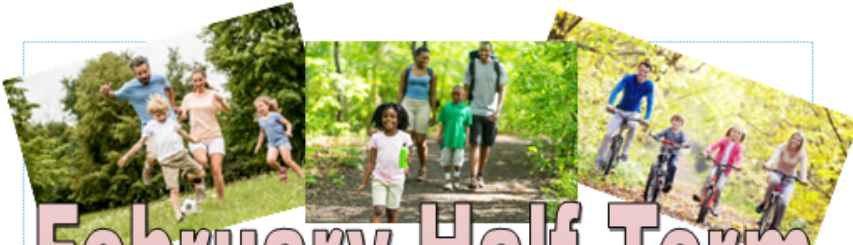
Then, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, we will be having a whole-school dress down day and bake sale in aid of Guide Dogs. The aim of this day is to raise as much as we possibly can, to donate in Mrs Holmes' name – so please, please, dig deep and support both this very worthwhile cause and the work that Mrs Holmes has done in school. We are then inviting Mrs Holmes back into school to assembly in the afternoon, so she can say goodbye to the children and so we can let her know how much she means to us. If you could also send any donations of cake in on the morning of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, along with your dress down donations, that would be great. All cakes will be 50p each and will be on sale at playtime. Please send additional money for cakes in on the day too. Many thanks for your support for this event.

### **Maples Linking Programme**

For many years, we have been part of The Linking Network, promoting identity, diversity, community and equality. This year, 25,000 children are taking part from 25 local authorities.

Maples are linked with Falcons Class at Savile Park Primary. We have made kindness leaves to swap with them, showing what we value and want to take local action on.

A national survey has shown that people from all areas value the same qualities: kindness, compassion, honesty, social justice, equality and forgiveness. As well as getting to know other children, the Linking Network allows our children to get to know themselves a little better, too.



# February Half Term Family Challenge

Get outside and Get Active! This is our challenge for you over February half term. Whether it's walking, cycling, scootering, skating, running, playing football, rugby, basketball or even sledging, we'd like you share your experiences with us by taking a photo and popping it on our school facebook page or sending us an email. We'd then like to make a lovely display of your photos in school for everyone to see.

Alongside this challenge, there is a competition to design next year's Travel Tracker badges (that the children get for walking to school). The theme this year is 'Walk with imagination'. Children are encouraged to imagine what it would be like to walk to school as an animal, historical icon, etc. Let your imagination run wild! Entry forms (with more details) will be sent home for half term. Please return by Weds 21st Feb.



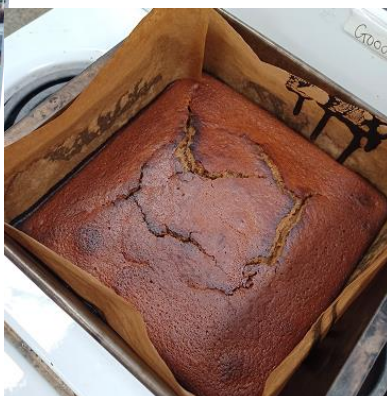
## February Half Term Family Challenge

Following the success of last year's February Half Term Family Challenge, we are repeating it this year. Please see the poster beside for details. We can't wait to see the ways you have been active over the half term!

Watch this space! We will be publishing weekly challenges after half term.

## Chestnuts and Redwoods joint work on Hanukkah

On Wednesday afternoon, children from Chestnuts and Redwoods came together to learn about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. They made dreidels and Jewish honey cake, which they were going to taste later in the week. What a great afternoon they had!



# Children's Mental Health Week



We have had a very busy Children's Mental Health Week! We started the week with a whole school assembly about what mental health is, how we can support our own mental health and how we can get help if we need it. We also looked at the work of Invictus, the Children's Mental Health charity, that we are raising money for.



We had yoga sessions for the children in Little Acorns, to learn about mindfulness. This was very well received, and children loved it! Watch this space for opportunities for Little Acorns!

We invited Open Minds in to work with Willows, Maples and Redwoods. They delivered workshops about anxiety – again, what it is, that is a part of life and that worries are normal. They also examined how to manage anxiety and ways to help ourselves.

Great Oaks have been thinking about the ways they can talk positively about themselves, by discussing what makes them amazing, and what they are grateful for. They did some mindfulness and discussed the best way to use their voices to make a difference. Redwoods also did some 'unwind the mind' activities to manage emotions and look after their wellbeing.

The kitchen also celebrated by creating blue iced buns in celebration of #BlueSomeGood. We have had a dress down day in support of Invictus Children's Mental Health charity and had a dance party. Thank you for your contributions – I will update with totals when it has been counted up.





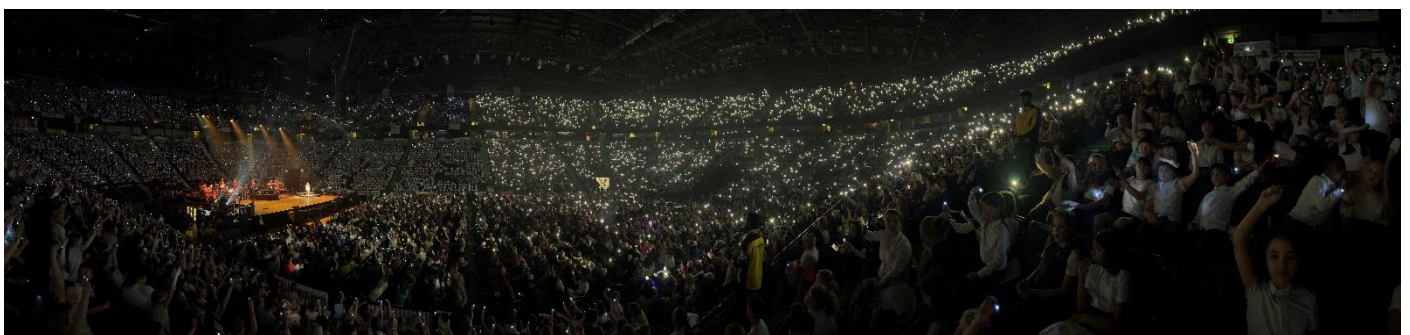
### **5 Star Team!**

This week, we had an unannounced visit from the Environmental Health Team to inspect the kitchen and Busy Bees. I am delighted (but not surprised!) to let you know that we have retained the 5 Star rating for health and hygiene. The catering and Busy Bees teams work so hard to maintain excellent standards and I am sure you will join with me in congratulating them on their most recent assessment. Well done to everyone involved!



### **Young Voices 2024**

On Wednesday of this week, we took 55 children to the Manchester Arena for Young Voices. What an incredible show! While it is a long day, it is such a good day and as always, our children did us proud – so much so, a teacher from another school complimented our children on their lovely manners! Thank you, also to our parents who came to support us – we loved spotting you across the arena! These are events that create memories to last a lifetime.





### Daily Mile Medal Winners

William and Florian have achieved their gold Daily Mile medals! This is an incredible 100 miles! Just amazing!

A very big well done, too, to Calum, Sophie, Eden, Isaac, Elsie, Lilabelle, Mollie, Eleanor and Leon who have achieved their silver medal (50 miles). Unfortunately, Florian and Leon were absent for their photo taken, but well-done boys!



### Safer Internet Day 2024

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, Willows took part in a fantastic live lesson presented by the BBC. The Live Lesson demystified insights into the world of AI technology. Willows are now AI experts and they understand the importance of staying safe using the internet!



### Diary Dates

***Lots of dates will be added regularly – keep an eye on the diary dates section! We will add more detail in the coming weeks.***

#### **February**

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Busy Bees Open all week
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Staff training day
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	PTFA Meeting – Silk Mill – 7.30pm
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cross Country at Temple Newsham
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	R/KS1 Celebration Assembly 2.45pm
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Guide Dogs assembly

#### **March**

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Guide Dogs Day! Dress Down Day (donations) and cake sale – 50p each
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bags to School Collection PTFA Mother's Day Secret Shop *More details to follow*

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day – wear PJs and bring your favourite bedtime story Parents' Evening
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	R/KS1 Celebration Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Clubs Finish for Easter KS2 Celebration Assembly 2.45pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Maples School Visit to Temple Newsham
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Closes for Easter



**Ripponden J&I School**

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*Growing Together, Reaching for the Sky*

	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>
1			KS2 Celebration 2.45pm
2		R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm	
3			
4			
5			Parents Evening
6			
7		Young Voices	World Book Day Parents Evening
8	School reopens		R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm
9		KS2 Celebration 2.45pm School Closes for Half term	
10			
11			
12		Busy Bees Open all week	
13			
14			
15	Clubs restart		Clubs finish for Easter KS2 Celebration 2.45pm
16			
17	EYFS Maths Information Session		
18			
19	R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm	<b>TRAINING DAY</b>	
20		School reopens	
21			
22			School Closes for Easter
23		R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm	
24			
25			
26	KS2 Celebration 2.45pm		
27			
28			
29			
30	EYFS Maths Open Session		
31			



	April	May	June	July
1				
2				
3		R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm	School reopens	
4				
5				Clubs finish for summer Transition Day
6		BANK HOLIDAY		
7			Class Photos R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm	
8	School reopens			
9				
10		KS2 Celebration 2.45pm	Y6 Residential all week	
11				
12				Reports Out
13		Y6 SATs Week		
14			KS2 Celebration 2.45pm	
15	Clubs restart			
16				
17		R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm		Year 6 Production 2PM & 6PM
18				
19	R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm			School closes for summer
20				
21			R/KS1 Celebration 2.45pm	
22				TRAINING DAY
23				
24		KS2 Celebration 2.45pm School Closes for half term	Sports Week	
25			Sports Day	
26	KS2 Celebration 2.45pm			
27				
28			KS2 Celebration 2.45pm	
29				
30				
31				