



Headteacher's Newsletter no.1

24th September 2021

Welcome back!



Welcome back to our first newsletter of the term!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you had a good summer break and your child/ren have settled well into school this term. I have been delighted to see how well the children are behaving, how hard they are working and how smart they look as they move around the school. Well done everyone!

As you can see, I have given the newsletter a bit of a revamp to try and make it more appealing to read. As part of the new design, I'll be trying to share some photos of life around school too. Hope you enjoy the new look! Any feedback on our communication strategies would be gratefully received via our Admin e-mail address.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Best wishes,

Mrs Slocombe

Headteacher



I want to welcome our new families who have joined us in F1 (Nursery) and F2 (Reception), as well as across the school, this term. Greetings to the following children: Hala, Anaya, Safa, Judi, Muath, Saashwat, Mohammad, Ava, Owen, Theodore, Lola, Roshan, Grayson, Parker, Eesa, Robert, Inaaya, Riley, Finley, Suleiman, Holly, Jiyan, Owen, Joel, Betsy, Virat, Hayley, Eva, Reginald, Aisha, Joseph, Leen, Ryul, Dan, Finley, Dhairya, Ayra, Fianna, Caelan, Alana, Amelia, Bradley, Ayansh, Avni, Alexander, Lillian, Olivia, Charlie, Yazan, Joshua, Travis, Muen, Imogen, Eshwar, Nikita, Amay, George, Leo, Cassie, Amelia, Esme, Freya, Ryan, Daisy, Aya, Viraa, Roaa, Aarya, Eden, Zakaria, Aadya, Adhya, Ayush and Malachi.

Curriculum News



As you can see by the photo of a live mummification of a Phaorah in Year 5, the children have been enjoying the start to their new year groups. The Curriculum News, which contains information about what each year group studies over the course of this term, has been sent out today. It also contains details about our School Improvement priorities for this year, which include further development on the school's pedagogy and outcomes, curriculum and curriculum leadership, therapeutic thinking, racial equity and parental engagement.

Please take a look!

Voice 21 Oracy work



One of the elements that we pride ourselves on at Radstock Primary School is our work on Oracy - the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language. We encourage children to speak in full sentences and develop their learning and ideas through talk. When asking a question, our teachers give everyone the opportunity to talk by using talk partners to allow the children to talk to each other, before coming back together for an answer. We are working with Voice 21 to develop our Oracy strategies and Miss Beaumont, our Oracy leader, has contributed in discussions which have been shared with teachers and schools across the country on Radstock's journey to develop Oracy.



We feel "talk" is such an important life skill - throughout the pandemic, the ability to talk to each other over the internet has been an essential way to keep in touch with work, family and friends - and you may feel the same. Miss Beaumont has put together, with the help of Mrs Prowse's husband, some top tips to develop discussion at home, as well as some suggested ways to start discussions with your child/ren. These posters and further information are accompanying this newsletter today.



We hope you find it useful!

Homework

Thank you to all parents who attended our Transition meetings over the last two weeks. If you weren't able to make it, videos of the recordings are available on your child's Google Classroom page and the powerpoints are available on the school website. A key priority for homework at Radstock is ensuring that children develop those key skills essential to reading, writing and mathematics. It is our expectation that your child reads or is heard read a minimum of 5 times a week. In addition, we also expect that your child learns their spellings and watches the pre-learning video available on Google Classroom once they are in Year 1 onwards.

We are about to introduce Accelerated Reader to the children in Key Stage 2 which is a way of promoting reading and have revamped our library collection. Thank you to those parents who supported our mini-book sale last week. Once it is launched, children will be encouraged to become Word Millionaires by reading as many books as they can over the year.



Once your child is in Year 1, they should also be using Numbots or Times Table Rockstars regularly to develop their knowledge of key number facts. Further details of timings is available in Curriculum News!



Thank you for your support.

COVID-19 Update

Be cautious. Be careful. Be kind.



I just wanted to remind you all of the key messages around COVID-19 now that restrictions have eased. We are still being cautious in school and are only mixing small groups of children - 2 year groups for assemblies or for Read Write Inc - or larger groups outside. Where we have had a positive case, as we now have in one year group, we have stopped the children from gathering together in assemblies in the short term.

We would ask that you continue to be cautious as well by observing the following:

- If your child has a cough, temperature or loss of taste or smell, please book a PCR test via NHS 111. A lateral flow test is **not** the same as a PCR and can miss positive cases. We have seen children with other symptoms, including headaches, stomach upsets, sore throats and being

unusually tired, so if you are worried, please book a test. The office team may ask you to get your child tested if we are concerned about symptoms.

- Whilst your child is being tested, they should remain home from school if they have symptoms as self-isolation rules still remain for symptomatic individuals.
- Work is uploaded onto Google Classroom each week for all pupils to complete if they are off school and well enough to complete it.

Please make sure you report all COVID-19 test results to our covid@radstock.wokingham.sch.uk e-mail address. Thank you for your support.

Y1/2 visit to Windsor Castle



As part of their learning project on Towers, Tunnels and Turrets, Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a visit to Windsor Castle. They had the opportunity to explore the castle as well as understand more about some of the design features of the building. The children really enjoyed themselves - the only thing they didn't enjoy was the fact that the Queen didn't come out to meet them. Despite not having been on an educational visit in quite a while, they were really well behaved and were a credit to the school. Well done Years 1 and 2!



After School Club



Unfortunately we have not had enough After School Club books recently and Get Active are struggling to remain open. Having spoken to other Headteachers locally, other After School Club providers are in a similar position.

If you wish to be able to use an After School Club service going forward, we do need you to book onto the club over the next few days. If there are not a minimum of 10 bookings per day, they will be forced to close the After School Club. Rob Sherwood and I are meeting next week to review numbers.

I understand this will be a disappointment to some of you who depend on the After School Club service, so please sign up if you would like it to continue!

Y5 Vice House and Sports Captains



Well done to the Year 5 children who gave speeches to their houses with reasons as to why they would make great House or Sports Captains. Congratulations to the following children who were announced as winners.

The **Vice House Captains** are as follows:

Farah: Janhavi

Ennis: Jad

Simmonds: Krish

Weir: Daniel

The **Vice Sports Captains** are as follows:

Farah: Ali

Ennis: Nicole

Simmonds: Will

Weir: Malachi

Harvest Festival



Thank you for your support with our food collection for the Harvest Festival. Having talked about Poverty with the children in our Oracy assemblies this term, I was delighted to see lots of different items in to give to Woodley Foodbank. I know that they have been struggling with keeping stocks up to support local families so this will really help. Thank you!

We're taking part in



We have excitingly registered Radstock for the Mini London Marathon event this year. By taking part, our children will be joining 50,000 runners completing 26.2 miles on the streets of London in the mass Virgin Money London Marathon, and a further 50,000 people running a virtual event of the same distance across the world.

Our children will take part by completing 2.6 miles whilst running MoveItMile and enjoying the mental and physical health benefits of exercise between Monday 27 September and Friday 22 October.

Why not join in, as well, as a family at the weekend or after school by walking the dog, scooting, jogging or running together 2.6 miles?

Nut Free School



We've noticed some nuts creeping into lunchboxes recently, so please can I remind you that Radstock Primary School is a nut free zone. This includes raw nuts, peanut butter and Nutella. All of these can cause serious allergic reactions in some of our pupils.

Thank you for your support!

Diary Dates

Please find below the Diary Dates for the Autumn term. As I am sure you understand, these dates are provisional and dependant on government guidance and the number of COVID-19 cases in school and the local community. Some events may be virtual and some may be cancelled and postponed. We will update you with further information as we move through the term.

Thursday 30th September: Catch-up photographs taken for children previously absent

Friday 1st October: Black History Month

Sunday 3rd October: Y6 to Rhos-y-Gwaliau

Saturday 9th October: Y6 return from Rhos-y-Gwaliau

Tuesday 12th October: Parents Evening - Virtual - Letters will go out for bookings next week

Thursday 14th October: Parents Evening - Virtual - Letters will go out for bookings next week

Friday 22nd October: FoR's Happy Circus

Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October: HALF TERM



Monday 8th November: Parents' Drop In after school until 4pm - Parents **must** wear masks if they wish to come in

Friday 12th November: Children in Need - please wear 1 spotty item along with school uniform

Monday 15th November: Anti-Bullying Week - please wear odd socks on Monday - the brighter the better!



Tuesday 7th December: EYFS Nativity Performance - May be virtual

Wednesday 8th December: EYFS Nativity Performance - May be virtual

Thursday 9th December: KS1 Nativity Performances - May be virtual

Friday 10th December: KS2 Carol Concert at Church - just children, unfortunately no parents this year

Wednesday 15th December: Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 17th December: End of term - school finishes at 1.10pm to 1.20pm



Please contact us via the following methods:



Telephone 0118 986 9050

E-mail admin@radstock.wokingham.sch.uk