



RYE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

TERM ONE



What a fantastic start we have had in term 1. I do hope that you enjoy your half term week together and return refreshed and rejuvenated, ready for term 2!

This newsletter has a bit of a theme... attendance...

I know I have previously written about attendance in this newsletter. However, I feel I must write again as we are still seeing far too many children absent from school. We want to work with you to improve your child's attendance and ensure that your child has the best start in life. However, we need your support in this.

We will help you in anyway we can— please do just ask. Often, I think there is a misconception that all schools do is “fine parents” for non attendance... Whilst this is the case for all parents who take their child out of school during term time for a holiday, we do also support many of our families with a variety of other attendance related issues.

On the issue of holidays taken in term time, during term 6 last year and term 1 this year, we have seen a phenomenal increase in the amount of parents taking their children out of school for holidays. Although the increase may be as a consequence of the pandemic, we **can't authorise any holidays, for anyone, for any reason**. I will draw your attention once again to the statement from the Local Authority...

“If you want to take your child out of school during term time you should ask the head teacher for permission. Headteachers can only agree absence in exceptional circumstances—Holidays are not normally considered exceptional circumstances.”

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/attendance-behaviour/holidays-term-time>

Holiday absence will be treated as ‘unauthorised’. This means that you may face a fine from the local authority of £60 per parent per child; this fine increases to £120 per parent per child if not paid within 21 days and may result in prosecution if not paid within 28 days.

The school do **NOT** receive any money from fines. The reason the fines are sent from the school to the Local Authority is to ensure that we are following locally agreed policies to deter absence from school and to ensure that there is consistency of approach for all families. All families who miss 5 school days are subject to the same fine from the Local Authority. Once again, this is of no financial benefit to the school. A benefit to the school is that it may prevent some pupils being taken out of school during term time.

I do hope this clarifies our position. We appreciate families want to enjoy time together. We also know how frustrating it is that many holiday companies seem to put the prices up for the entire 13 weeks a year of school holidays! As school staff, we of course also have to pay these prices, so we do understand the frustration. However, our position has to remain that we do not authorise term time holidays.

We really do appreciate your support and understanding of our mission to improve attendance both at our school and as a school within the East Sussex Local Authority. As part of our commitment to the improvement of attendance across East Sussex and within our local Rye and Rother alliance of schools. I am working closely with the headteachers from our surrounding schools in Peasmarch, Playden, Beckley, Winchelsea and Rye College and together we have employed the services of an EWO (Education Welfare Officer). The EWO works across all of these school to improve attendance and ensure that all of the schools are following the same policies for attendance; including not authorising holiday during term time. We are looking forward to working with Kate, our EWO, and seeing more children in school everyday!

Introduction from Kate Ates, Educational Welfare Officer.

My name is Katie Ates and I am the Education Welfare Officer for Rye Community Primary School, but work in partnership with a number of schools across Rother. I am a qualified teacher in Further Education, hold a BA Hons in Applied Social Science and am currently completing a Masters in Psychology. I have nearly 5 years' experience of working with Special Educational Needs, in particular ASD, Anxiety, Emotional Based School-Refusal and Pathological Demand Avoidance, both within educational settings and home-based settings.

I am here to help identify ways of supporting families to overcome obstacles that may prevent children from attending school, such as transportation, recovery from illness, finances and behavioural strategies to overcome anxiety and school refusal. I respect that every family is different and that you are the experts in your children, but please do speak to me when you see me on the playground if you are interested in finding out more about the ways in which the school and I are able to support you in encouraging good attendance.

OUR NEW HEAD BOY AND GIRL

We are delighted to announce the names of our new head boy and girl.....

Head Boy

Jacob H

Head Girl

Bella P

Deputy Head Boys

Kiril

Ethan T

Deputy Head Girls

Seren

Honey

A huge well done to all who applied, we were so impressed with you all. I know our chair and vice chair of the AAC really enjoyed interviewing you all.

CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are also pleased to announce our new Children's Leadership Team,

Clownfish—Elsie and Louie

Seahorses—Eliza, Kovu and Aaliyah

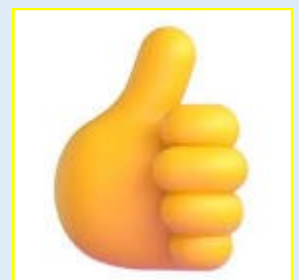
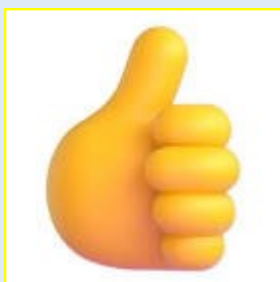
Sea Turtles—Harper, Lily and Freddie

Cuttlefish—Levi, Harrison and Martha

Orcas—Effie, Eddie and Poppy

Marlin—Olivia, Matilda B, Matilda W, Riley D

Dolphins— Rocco, Eva, Bella C





STARFISH



Starfish have been enjoying their 'Down on the Farm' topic. We have been learning about all of the different animals that live on the farm and identifying the sounds that they make. We have also been learning about the vegetables that grow on the farm and have even made some vegetable soup and tasted it.



MINNOWS



The new little Minnows have settled into school nicely. They have been busy making new friends and exploring their new classroom. The children have particularly enjoyed spotting older children they know in and around the school, learning gymnastics with Mr Mende in PE, outdoor learning in nature, beginning to read phonemes and words and Ready4School music lessons with James.



CLOWNFISH



Clownfish class have settled well this term into their new classroom.

We have enjoyed the 'X marks the spot' topic where we have completed lots of work about pirates. In maths we have looked at part whole models and have just started some simple addition.

In PE we have enjoyed the gymnastics unit with Mr Mendez which has given us lots of knowledge on balancing and moving.

This term we have learnt the continents and oceans and have sung a song to support us with this.

Science has been fun, as we have been looking at classification of animals, as well as our senses.



SEA TURTLES



Sea Turtles are enjoying their term 1 topic 'X Marks the Spot'. In English, they have been finding out about pirates' lives. In music Sea Turtles have been singing sea shanties.

In Art this term, the children have been developing their sketching skills by drawing self-portraits and portraits of their friends.



SEAHORSES



In Seahorses we have enjoyed using a variety of mediums in our artwork, including: watercolour paint, pencils, pastels and squeezy paint.

We have looked at beach landscapes and used drawing and painting to develop and share our ideas, experiences and imagination.

We re-capped how to use primary colours to make secondary colours and how to mix effectively. We looked at the work of the artist Susan Prince and used her as inspiration for our own beach landscape scenes.

We particularly enjoyed creating artwork of the Rye Harbour hut. Did you know that this has been in use since the 1900s to store fishing and shrimping equipment? It also has the nickname 'Gran's Shed' by the family of its former owner Sophia Clara Honeysett.



CUTTLEFISH



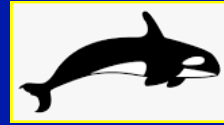
We have had a very busy term in Cuttlefish and are really enjoying our 1066 topic .

We have started to make our own sections of the Bayeux Tapestry and practised some sewing skills. Ava was our sewing superstar!

We have also been having ukulele lessons this term and we are learning the theme tune to Jurassic Park.



ORCAS



Orcas have had a brilliant time this term exploring the year of 1066, including the Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed researching the roles of knights in the Middle Ages and completing an information text all about how to become a knight and what a knight does, on and off the battlefield.

We used this inspiration to create our very own version of the Bayeux Tapestry, sewing a pattern to create a border and then using felt, and other materials, to show the events of 1066 itself.



MARLIN



Marlin class have begun Year 5 by learning all about coastal erosion. The children have become excellent fact-finders; researching the impact that both humans and nature have on our coastlines as well as the methods used to protect them. They have worked hard to produce information leaflets based on their new knowledge. In English, we have also enjoyed exploring the world of 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and the children have produced some lovely descriptive writing for our 'missing chapter' based on the story.

In Maths, our learning has been based on Place Value, Roman Numerals and Addition and Subtraction, as well as our daily times tables practice – please continue to practise these at home.

This term, we have been lucky enough to have had our weekly swimming lessons and it has been a pleasure to watch the children go from strength to strength, gaining confidence and skill in the water.

In science, we have learnt that light travels in straight lines, that white light is made up of a spectrum of colours and that we can refract light to demonstrate that light travels at different speeds through transparent objects.



DOLPHINS



Year 6 have had a very busy start to the school year! Our topic has been exploring 'Changing Coastlines', and as part of this, we have put together drama scenes using Kensuke's Kingdom as inspiration. In Science, Dolphins have looked at where light comes from and conducted experiments to test this. For our RSHE day, we looked at the important topic of body image, and the class contributed brilliantly to this discussion!

NHS
East Sussex School Health and
Children's Integrated Therapy Services



Healthy lifestyle club
for children aged 4 to 11
Eat well and get active together

Eight fun one-hour
interactive sessions suitable
for the whole family.
Virtual and face-to-face sessions available

Healthy habits

Please contact 0300 123 4062 or visit
www.eastsussexchildren.nhs.uk/healthy-habits

(we care)

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Harvest Festival

We had what many thought to be the largest amount of donations for the food bank for this year's Harvest Festival. Many children got creative and decorated their boxes, we were all so impressed.

It was also lovely to see so many families back in school watching the children singing the Harvest songs that they had learnt.

Thank you for all the donations and for taking the time to come in and celebrate with us and the children.



Any Other Business.....

Mrs Leach is looking for **Forest School Volunteers** on a Friday afternoon... If you don't mind being out in all weathers and getting a little muddy, please either register your interest at the office or speak directly to Mrs Leach.



Playground etiquette at the beginning and end of the day...

Staff have expressed concerns that parents are gathering too close to the area of the playground where they are dismissing children at the end of the day— making it sometimes impossible to see parents of children waiting to be dismissed. This obviously results in longer waiting times for you to collect your child. Therefore, could we ask you to please stay behind the lines on the playground (where we had the covid barriers) and not enter the main playground area where staff are trying to dismiss children. This ensures that staff are able to see and send children home as safely as possible.

Please do not allow your child to climb the Rye College fence onto the field after school. This is dangerous!

Staff news...

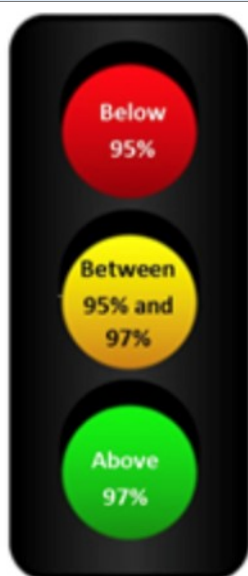
Miss Turton had a beautiful baby boy.

Kat from Starfish pre-school is about to start her maternity leave and we are also saying goodbye to Jo from Starfish who is leaving to pursue a lifelong dream in a completely different area of work.

We thank them all for their service to the children and families of Rye and wish them every blessing in these new adventures. We look forward to still seeing all of them regularly and Kat and Miss Turton, accompanied by their bundles of joy!



Attendance News



This year we are going to be sending you a personalised, **RAG**-rated attendance letter for your child(ren). If your child's attendance is below 95% we would like to be able to work with you and your child to see this improve, before we issue the next **RAG**-rated letter at the end of Term 2.

We do have various support measures to help with this; so if you would like some advice please speak to Miss Martin or Mrs Homewood on the school gate, in the morning, or call into the school office and speak to Mrs James or Miss Cruttenden. We also have the support of Kate Ates our EWO (Education Welfare Officer), who is working with us and other local schools, throughout this year. She has been making contact and meeting with parents when attendance becomes a concern.

We want the best for all our children and to help them succeed; for us to be able to do this children need to be attending school everyday, unless they are too unwell to do so. You only have to look at the statistics below to see the impact of lost learning caused by poor attendance.

Regular attendance ensures children keep up in lessons, understand and retain the subject knowledge they are being taught, they also form and maintain strong friendship groups.

Please help us to help your child Dream, Believe and Achieve.

ATTENDANCE STATS!

Attendance ... something to think about

(figures are approximate to illustrate the impact of poor attendance)

Attendance over the course of one school year

98% Attendance = 4 days absent from school
95% Attendance = 10 days absent from school
90% Attendance = 4 weeks absent from school
85% Attendance = 5½ weeks absent from school
80% Attendance = 7½ weeks absent from school

Attendance over 5 years (year 7 to year 11)

85% to 90% attendance = equivalent to about half a year absent from school
80% attendance = equivalent to about a year absent from school



Lateness = Lost Learning

(figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day = 6 days lost!
15 minutes late each day = 9 days lost!
20 minutes late each day = 12 days lost!
30 minutes late each day = 18 days lost!

We hope you have a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 31st October.