



Newsletter 1: Friday 3rd September 2021

### A message from the Executive Headteacher

Welcome back to a brand new academic year. I hope that you have all enjoyed the Summer holidays but I imagine that some of you are mightily relieved to be sending your children back to school next week!

I take great pleasure in writing my first newsletter as the Executive Headteacher of both Riseley Church of England Primary and Wilden VA Church of England Primary Schools.

It feels like a very long time since life was anything close to normal and I'm very hopeful that, as we start a brand new academic year, the national picture remains more positive and we can finally begin to put the past 18 months behind us and stride forwards.

I am excited about the future of the school and the potential I see in every classroom. I look forward to a prosperous relationship with the Riseley community as we work together to ensure that every child and adult flourishes.

The staff and I have spent the past two days discussing and developing our priorities for the 2021-2022 academic year and look forward to welcoming the children on Monday.

As we look ahead, I have made it a priority to involve parents as much as possible. If you are unable to make either the Parent Forum of 20th September or the Meet the Headteacher evening on Tuesday 14th September, please feel free to email the school office directly with your comments or queries.

### Dates for your diaries

Monday 6th September: First day of Autumn Term

Monday 13th September: Roald Dahl Day

Tuesday 14th September: Meet the Headteacher 7pm

Monday 20th September: Parent Forum 9.15am

Monday 20th September: Recycling Week

Friday 1st October: National Poetry Day

Monday 4th October: Mini London Marathon

Friday 8th October: Visit from MP Richard Fuller

## Riseley Church of England Primary School

High Street, Riseley, Bedford, MK44 1DR

**Executive Headteacher:** Mr Leigh Pointon

**Website:** [www.riseleyschool.co.uk](http://www.riseleyschool.co.uk)

**Telephone:** 01234 708218

**Email:** [office@riseley.bedssch.co.uk](mailto:office@riseley.bedssch.co.uk)

**Twitter:** @RiseleyPrimary

### Parent Forum

The first parent forum meeting of this academic year will be held at 9.15am on Monday 20th September. I would be delighted to welcome as many of you as possible to this meeting which will take place in the main hall.

The purpose of this first meeting is to gain parental views regarding the school and feedback responses to any questions posed at the Meet the Headteacher evening in early September.

All discussion points will be communicated to staff and parents following the meeting.

### Meet the Headteacher Evening

I am pleased to announce that I will be holding a 'Meet the Headteacher' evening on Tuesday 14th September at 7pm in the main school hall.

At this meeting I will introduce myself and share my experiences over the past 18 years in Education and outline my priorities for the children, staff and community of Riseley for the next 12 months and beyond.

I feel it is important that you, as parents, have the opportunity to meet me as early into the new academic year as possible.

There will be opportunities for parents to ask questions at the end of my presentation.

I look forward to meeting you then.

### Visit from Richard Fuller MP

On Friday 8th October, Richard Fuller MP will be visiting the school to speak to the children about their ideas regarding the fight against climate change. A letter was passed on to me in July about the COP26 Glasgow from 1st –12th November 2021. The UK is hosting the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). This is an important event and the UK is committed to fulfilling the commitments made at the Paris Agreement.

The goal of COP26 is to accelerate progress in five shared Challenges of Climate Change:

- ***Adaptation and resilience*** - to help communities to prepare for the worst impacts of climate change
- ***Nature*** - to safeguard and restore natural habitats and ecosystems to preserve the planet's biodiversity
- ***Energy transitions*** - to accelerate the clean energy transition through cheaper renewables and storage
- ***Clean Transport*** - to clean our air by speeding up the global transitions to zero emission vehicles
- ***Finance*** - to encourage our financial systems to be cleaner to unlock growth and create green jobs

As our local Member of Parliament and as a member of the Business and Energy Select Committee which has been scrutinising the government's preparations for COP26, he has a special interest in ensuring that all schools in his constituency have the opportunity to make a contribution and inspire others.

We plan to work on a project alongside the children and staff from Wilden CE Primary School to share their ideas about how the two schools are planning to make a difference to our community and planet. He will visit each school and hear presentations from some of the children and view their work. Parents will also have the opportunity to visit the school to see the work completed.

### COVID Arrangements

As we start the new academic year, the guidance from the Department of Education has been updated to reflect the national picture. The latest guidance makes clear that the vast majority of restrictions in schools should now be lifted and that schools should return (where appropriate) to as normal a daily routine as possible.

The arrangements for drop off and collection will be as follows:

- All children will now come into school at the same time as each other from 8:45am. Registers will close at 8:55am.
- All children from Years 1 to 6 will come in through the MUGA gate. The children can be sent through the gate by their parents and walk straight to their classrooms. There will be a TA to meet and help the KS1 children.
- Nursery will come through the gate next to the school building and go straight into the Nursery classroom with their parents where they will meet Mrs Deane.
- Reception children will come through the same gate and walk to the back playground with their parents where they will meet Mrs Brown.
- At the end of the day (3:15pm), Nursery and Reception parents will wait at the gate next to the school building. Teachers will send the children to their parents at the gate when they see them.
- Years 1 to 6 will be taken to the MUGA by their teacher. They will line up on the MUGA in class lines. Parents will come onto the MUGA to collect their children.
- If parents have children in Nursery/Reception and an older year group, they should collect Nursery/Reception children first.

Additionally, children in Years 1-6 will continue to attend school in their PE kit on days that they are timetabled for PE. Children are expected to wear correct PE kit and 'alternative' clothing will not be acceptable.