



Riseley C of E Primary School
Interim Headteacher: Mrs C Claxton

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A message from the Head...

5th February 2021

Listening to parents has told me that many of you value the great relationships between staff, pupils and parents. However, some of you have said that more communication from school to home would be appreciated. We have therefore decided to reinstate the weekly newsletter, however, please do not get too excited as these days there is not much news to share! Children are doing great things in class and I know from dojo comments that children are doing great things at home. but there is no music, sport or exciting events to report.

Following a major flood at Riseley just before Christmas, I joined the school on 1st January - we had already planned to fully open on 5th January. On the 4th of January, Boris Johnson announced another lockdown and said primary schools would only be open to keyworkers - another set of plans! The government then announced that the remote learning offer needed to be the same at school as at home and that this offer would be quality assured by senior school improvement advisers - another set of plans. A further flood at school and a snow closure day brings me up to this week. Well, I can't tell you how grateful I am to the staff and children at Riseley for the warmth of their welcome and immense commitment to your children that staff have shown in my first month. I am sure most of you already know that I am Executive Headteacher (a posh word for being a headteacher in more than 1 school) for 2 days per week at both Riseley and Wilden. Initially I was appointed for a term but the governors have asked if I will continue until the end of this year when it is hoped that a substantive headteacher will take up post. As you know staff are working hard to improve the remote learning offer and we welcome feedback, including that which is difficult to swallow. That said I am sure parents appreciate that in a 1 form entry school, the class teacher is responsible for both home and in school learning. In 2 or 3 form entry primary schools, 1 of the teachers will stay at home and teach remotely all day whilst their year group partner teacher teaches the keyworker children back in school. At Riseley they have to accomplish both.

Dare we believe that March will see the end to lockdown with all children back in school.....that is the heartfelt wish of all the staff ...and I imagine many of you are thinking the same at the end of a week juggling all your family priorities!!

Enjoy what you can from the weekend

Clare Claxton

Interim Headteacher Riseley and Wilden

Wisdom

Our Value this half term is Wisdom. We have been learning about what it means to be wise. It doesn't have anything to do with how old we are, instead it is a gift that we must nurture inside ourselves.

We have been finding out about the book of Proverbs which is a book of wisdom in the Bible. Sam has shared different sayings with us in some of our collective worship times. Through these sayings and stories, we have learnt that wisdom isn't about what you know, it's about what you do with what you know.

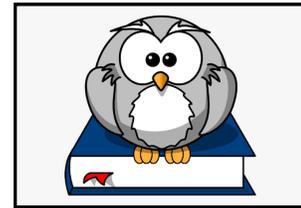
These questions might help you to reflect on what wisdom means to you.

Who do you know that you might describe as a wise person?

What makes someone wise?

Who do you turn to for good advice?

How do you think that you might become wise?



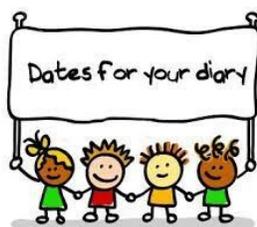
Uniform

PE

Uniform continues to be purchased from Price and Buckland:
<https://price-buckland.co.uk/>

We have made a small change to our uniform provision:

The PE tracksuit top (optional for all years), will be replaced by a PE black crew neck sweatshirt with our Riseley logo. The price for this sweatshirt will be £10.25. Children may continue to wear the tracksuit top if they have one. If you wish to purchase a clearance priced tracksuit top, these are now reduced on the Price and Buckland website.



February Half Term: 15th—19th February

Easter Holidays: 29th March - 9th April

Staff Training Day: Monday 12th April

Our full school calendar is available on our school website

Governor Blog.....Dan Aves

So I have now been a governor of the school for 3 months & already on my second head teacher! Having worked briefly with Clare this term, I think it's really positive to hear she will see us through this school year and really prepare the ground for the new full time permanent head appointment. Richard Carter also joined in January as the new Foundation Governor, bringing considerable financial and banking knowledge as well as previous school governor experience to the team. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Lynda Simister who is stepping down after many years supporting the school in a variety of ways. The group will certainly miss your wealth of experience – but don't worry – we know where you live!

As a parent, I did not really have any visibility of the governors prior to being elected - however I'm very pleased to report the genuine care and dedication that this group clearly shows and how we genuinely care about the future success of the school. Many of you will have not yet seen the completed phase 2 of the school (which incidentally looks amazing) but it's very clear to me that this would not have been possible without a huge amount of support behind the scenes – especially Dudley Ferdinando & Catherine, who have both donated themselves practically full time. In fact the festive break felt more like a holiday club for Governors & friends down at the school, helping to prepare for the new term on most days!

On a personal front, I have found this term particularly tough & much harder than previous lockdowns. I am fortunate enough to be able to work remotely from home, but with both of us working full time while supporting home schooling for three children, the summer cannot come soon enough. I appreciate that these challenges are far from unique, and so unsurprisingly I have a particular interest in the provision of home learning support - views I have been sharing with the school leadership team & governors for areas we can be better. We are all always striving for continuous improvement in all aspects of our children's learning and school life. I would like to sign off with a thanks to the staff for all of their undoubted efforts during this difficult time for everyone & to all the parents – roll on March & fingers crossed!

Dan



SNOW

Chance of snow this weekend!

For keyworker children coming in to school on Monday, as always, keep an eye on the School Story on Dojo and text messages.

If we have significant snow we will be in touch once we have assessed both the safety of our local roads and the school site early on Monday morning.



Wishing you all a lovely weekend!