

Resilience | Excellence | Determination

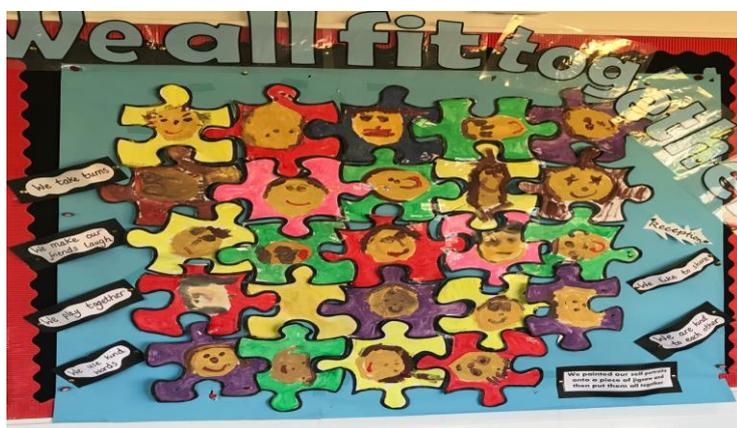
Headteacher: Mr Steve Davies
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College Gardens, Redbridge, IG4 5HW T 0208 551 7429



Friday 9th July 2021

Head Teacher's Newsletter



Dear Families,

I hope you are all continuing to be safe and well and looking forward to the weekend. Let's hope that come Monday we have something we can all celebrate as a nation after 55 Years of waiting.

This week all the teachers have been busy finalising the children's end of year reports and I have enjoyed reading and writing my comments on most of these. Those that I have not signed have been signed by other members of the leadership team. I want to say what a pleasure it has been to read how well our children have been doing especially since they returned to full time schooling in March. Indeed, I think it is testament to them and you as to how well they are doing as this has not been an easy academic year for them again.

Reports will be coming out tonight together with information regarding your child's class teacher for next year as they will be meeting their teachers next week during transition week.

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Transition week:

Next week sees the start of the newly introduced transition week where the children will spend the week with their new teachers for next year. This is something I have introduced as it gives the children the chance to feel less anxious and settled about the changes that are about to happen to them.

During the week classroom charters and rules will be discussed and decided upon and routines established with their new teacher. They will also get the chance to design their new classrooms with their teacher and have a say in how the room is set up, giving them a sense of ownership and class identity from the start.

For the youngest children it removes much of the anxiety that can be there in September as their new teacher becomes a familiar face and somebody they immediately recognise again in September.

For the older children they can feel reassured that they can hit the ground running from September as the ice has been broken with their new teacher and the classroom is set up and ready for them to enjoy in September.

For the teachers it gives them much needed time to gain essential hand over information from the previous teacher, get to know their new cohort of children, and to have their classrooms set up with the children before the new term starts in September. Again, this enables them to start the new term running and maximise all learning time available.

This is a new approach for Redbridge Primary but it is something that I have managed in schools previously as Kent schools have operated this system very successfully, for years.

Boris Johnson's announcement:

As you will have heard the PM has decided that all restrictions will be relaxed come the 19th June which in the face of the rising cases of COVID-19 in the UK and in Redbridge is quite astonishing to me. Since the 8th March we have had to close three bubbles only and we believe this is because of the safety precautions we have been taking as a school. While I am desperate to get back to some sort of normality in school I also want to do this safely and when it is the right time to do it. For this reason, I will still be asking parents who come onto school site to continue wearing their face coverings and to follow the one-way system we have introduced just for that last week of term after the 19th July. In September we will review this of course, and hopefully return to previous ways of operating in school.

Your cooperation in this has been fantastic and I urge you to stick with this approach just so we can get to the end of term safely and without having to close any more bubbles and disrupt the children's education still further.

For our part, we will still be opening all windows and doors to allow for adequate ventilation inside the school, we will still be sanitising classrooms before and after each learning session, we will still be cleaning all toilet areas three times and not twice a day, and we will still be ensuring that all children and adults wash their hands before leaving and on entering the classroom/building.

By continuing to work together in this way we will ensure that we can mitigate the risks in the way that we have done right throughout the pandemic. We are nearly there folks, so let's not let all the sacrifices and hard work come to nothing simply because this government want to be popular.

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Fond farewells:

At the end of this term we will be saying a fond farewell to Mr Ray Khan who has had a connection with Redbridge Primary for over 15 years. He has been a parent, a member of the PTA, a teaching assistant and a loyal and dedicated teacher and Team Leader in that time. He has had a huge impact on the children of this school. He is loved by all and a very big presence that we are all going to miss greatly. I am delighted to say that he is moving to train to become an Assistant Head and I know he is going to do great things in this role. I know you will join me in wishing him all the very best wishes as he moves on in his career.

We will also be sadly saying goodbye to Ms Sharon Burk who is moving to be closer to where she lives. In the short time she has been with us she has also had a huge impact on the children's learning at Redbridge primary School and we are very grateful for all that she has done. Again, I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for her future career.

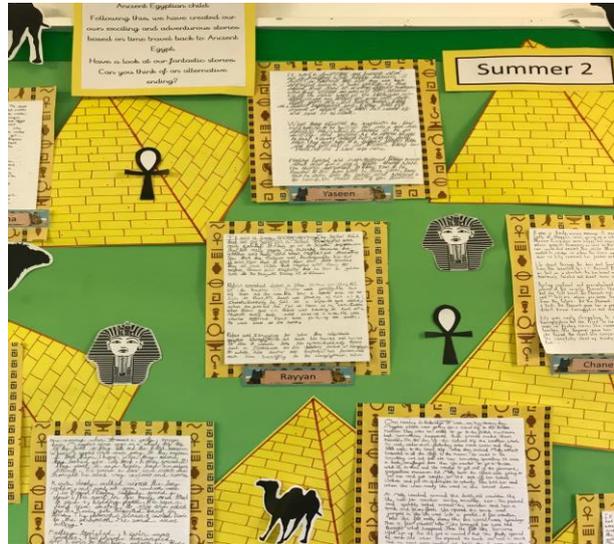
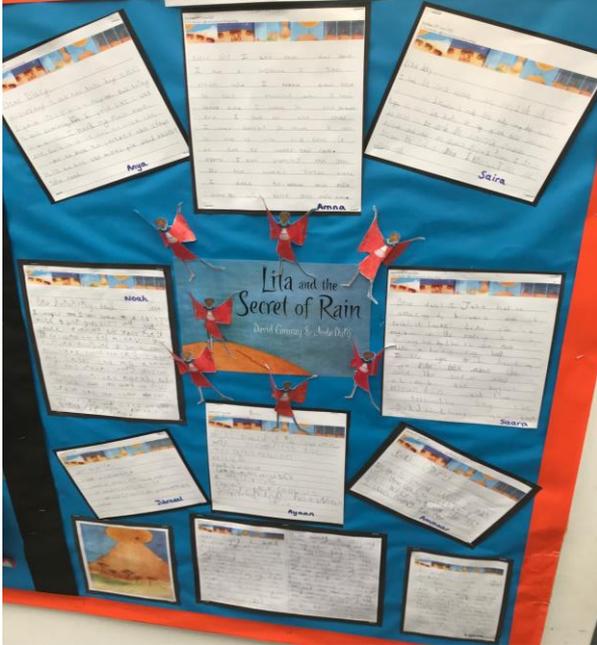
By the way, I have told both of them that they should not be strangers and that they will always be welcome within the Redbridge family if they should want to visit.

Making excellent progress with our writing:

I just wanted to share with you some of the excellent writing that is on show in school at the moment which clearly shows how hard the children are working in this area and the progress they are making. The pictures below are from Year 1 up to Year 5:

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Upcoming Dates to note:

Year 6 leavers event-Friday 9th July

Vaccine bus-Wednesday 14th July 6pm-9pm

Please also remember that because we started the academic year back in September late due to reopening preparations because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be finishing the year two days later than some other schools in the borough. The final day for children will be **Friday 23rd July and school will be closing at 1.30pm on this day.** School will reopen for children on **Friday 3rd September 2021** for the new academic year.

I also wanted to update you on the early closures for Fridays which we will not be returning to until after the first half term. We feel parents need time to prepare for this return and also, we need time to set up the comprehensive and complex after school arrangements to be able to facilitate this for working parents.

This means that from September and for the whole of that **first** half term after the summer holidays, school will finish at 3.15pm for the KS 2 children and 3.25pm for the KS 1 children each day of the week.

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The change to **Fridays** will be reintroduced again after the half term break from **Friday 5th November** when school will close at **2.30pm**.

During the first half term of the autumn we will be consulting working parents to see if they still require the after-school provision on Fridays. There is no need to email requesting this until we send the letter out in September.

COVID-19 Vaccine Bus:

We have been approached by the LA and public Health to act as a host site for the Redbridge vaccine bus and I have of course agreed to this. The bus will be visiting from 6-9pm and their staff will be setting up in the Key Stage 1 hall to offer the **AZ vaccine (They have informed us of this change quite late in the day as it was originally delivering the Pfizer jab)** to anybody who still has not had one in the local area. The dates when they will be here are **Wednesday 14th July from 6pm to 9pm**. It is a drop in so no need to make an appointment.

Attendance:

I am delighted to report that we have achieved the national expectation again this week for attendance of **96%** Thank you for ensuring your children attend regularly, and on time.

Monday Morning:

As many parents have been asking, we are well aware that children and parents may well be feeling a little tired on Monday morning after the big match so we will be leaving the gates open until **9.45am** so that children can catch up on any sleep they may have missed, but we do expect everybody to be in school on Monday morning by this time.

Please enjoy your weekend with family, and I look forward to seeing you and your children next week and please stay safe and well.

Best wishes,

Steve Davies (Head Teacher)

“Come on England, bring it home!!”



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