

Resilience | Excellence | Determination

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Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Families,

Firstly, I wanted to thank you for all your kind wishes and comments in welcoming me back to school this week. I am now fully recovered and so pleased to be back doing what I love. It was wonderful to catch up with all the children again in assemblies and around school this week too.

In my absence Ms Southall and Ms Targett-Adams and the wider leadership team deputised superbly well and the teachers and children have all worked really hard and school is looking fantastic as our display boards in the corridors are now showcasing the excellent work that is going on in the classrooms with the new creative curriculum going down superbly well with the children.



(Some of the excellent topic work going on in Key Stage 2 at Redbridge this term)

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IT plans for the school's future

We remain determined at RBPS to improve and enhance the IT opportunities for our children and this week I have been trying to finance even further portable technology for our KS2 children. Currently, Year 4 and Year 6 children have access to i-pads and Surface Pro-books and in the very near future I hope to purchase more of these machines for years 3 and 5. This will mean that all KS 2 children will have direct access to a portable device in their classroom to enable them to support their learning and enhance their studies.

Key Stage 1 children will continue to access the ICT suite where they can learn about coding and other key IT skills on the desk top computers we have available.

This aspect of the children's learning is essential as we continue to try to offer a 21st century curriculum for the children here at RBPS.

Early closure on Fridays returning after half term:

In preparation for the possible return of early closure after half term on Fridays we will be sending out a Google form for parents who need after school provision on these days to identify this. I am hoping to get this out to you early next week so we can gauge the level of need for this service after half term. Please look out for this form and reply as soon as you can so we can start planning for this.

Getting back to some sort of normality after half term:

I am delighted to say that the assemblies we have been holding in school have worked really well and the children as well as the staff, have welcomed this return to what is normal practice in a primary school. After half term we are going to invite parents to attend the achievement celebratory assemblies which now take place on Mondays. This was very popular with parents before the pandemic and it is something we have been longing to bring back for you. It is a great opportunity for you to come in and see the school and to celebrate your child's achievements with them and us.

Just to remind you, the class teachers choose 2 children from each class in the school to be awarded a certificate to celebrate their exceptional achievements during the previous week. These are then presented to the children by me, in the weekly achievement assembly. After half term the parents of these children will be invited to come in and share this celebration, so please look out for that invite (as over the year all children will be chosen at some point)

Parents' Forum:

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered your time and commitment to standing as Class Reps for the school's Parent Forum. I am delighted with the response this year to this and we will be informing the successful candidates very soon, and planning the first of the Forum meetings with me and other members of the senior leadership team before the end of this half term.

After school clubs and enrichment:

I am delighted that we have started some of the after-school clubs and enrichment activities again such as football and chess and I am determined after half term to offer a wider range of opportunities for the children to enjoy extra-curricular experiences. We are currently planning these and trying to find the adults who could facilitate this programme for us. Music, art, drama, dance and sports are all essential areas that help to enhance what children do in school and indeed are important skills in their own right, so please watch this space and look out for the letters publicising where we are going next with this now that COVID-19 restrictions are lifting.

Key Stage 2 playground improvements-Update:

I am delighted to report that we are still on course for the completion of the revamped and improved Key Stage 2 playground. Most of the wall spaces are now painted and brightened up. The next phase is perhaps the most difficult as this is where we are going to put in the climbing and other apparatus for the children to play on and this involves raising even more funds to be able to do this to the standard we require for the

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children here at RBPS. There will be a number of fund-raising events coming up so again please watch out for the letters advertising these and help us to make the children's dreams a reality.

Attendance and punctuality:

I cannot stress the importance especially after the disruptive year we have just endured in school, for the children to attend school on a regular basis and for them to be on time so they do not miss any of the exciting and excellent learning opportunities we are providing for them. This week our attendance is still only 94% and we are really going to have a push on this as it needs to be nearer to the national expectation for schools of 97%. This is our aim and I will not compromise on insisting that all children should be in school every day and on time. I will not authorise holidays in school time and parents who insist on doing this will be served a penalty notice.

A huge thank you to the vast majority of families at RBPS who understand how important it is for children to attend regularly and on time. We can only make a difference to a child's education if they are here.

Parking issues again:

I want to apologise to all those parents who must be sick and tired of me having to write to complain about selfish parking from a small minority of our parent community. Suffice to say, they are putting themselves and the children at risk. Please stop doing this! When it is reported to us we contact the police and I am encouraging parents who observe this selfish and dangerous behaviour to take down registration numbers and hand these to us so that we can give them straight to the police so they can follow up on this.

I am also in constant touch with the parking department and they will be again sending down parking patrol officers who will not hesitate to issue on the spot fines. YOU HAVE AGAIN BEEN WARNED!!

Save the date:

Just a 'save the date' reminder that we will be holding our Parent Teacher Consultation on the last day of the term (**22nd October 2021**) so years Reception - Year 6 will close half day and the Nursery will be closed all day. There has already been lots of amazing things going on in the classes and your children are working very hard so this will be a chance for the teachers to share some of this with you.

Finally:

We are now one month into the new academic term and things are going really well. Whilst COVID-19 is still with us, and we must remain vigilant, we are managing to bring back many of the things that make our school stand-out such as clubs, assemblies and in the very near future a host of parent workshops on such things as phonics, maths mastery, stay and learn, stay and play, and many other things we want to share with you.

For now though, please try to enjoy the weekend, and I hope you can avoid those long petrol station queues and the rain.

Please stay safe and well.

Very best wishes,

teve Davies (Head Teacher)

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