



December 2023

Rowsley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it is not long to go until Christmas!

I know the children were all really excited about all the events that have gone on in school. Thank you for keeping up with all the events and supporting us.

Also a HUGE thank you to all the staff for their cheerfulness and hard work to make this such a fabulous Autumn Term.

Christian Values

Our school Christian Values are: Love, Respect, Compassion, Belonging and Faith.

As a school we encourage all our children to flourish and be the best version of themselves through these values.

Over this Christmas season, take the time to "Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other." (Romans 12:10)

Community Events

Many thanks to the Bakewell Rotary Club who donated £250 for some new glockenspiels for school, two members of the Rotary Club came into school this month to award the cheque and listen to how they are being used in the Mother Teresa class. They played Jingle Bells beautifully.

Our Christingle Service was so fabulously attended, thank you to all who attended. It was lovely to see so many of you, I think it was standing room only!

Our annual Carols in the Community Event was a lovely family evening and made us feel all Christmassy. Many thanks to all who attended and joined in.

The infant Nativity was truly wonderful – what amazing singing. They had such a lot to learn. We are so lucky to be able to hire the Village Hall for this occasion as having it on stage made all the difference.

This month we took the whole school to the panto in Buxton. This was a fabulous morning out and was enjoyed by all. It was very funny and Mrs Middlebrook secured us the best seats in the house. One of our infants was chosen to go up on stage and help lower a giant spider on to the heads of the ugly sisters!!

Parent Feedback

We recently sent out a parent questionnaire on ParentHub, many thanks to those who completed it.

There were few issues raised which I would like to address.

The look of the playground – it was mentioned that the infant playground had lots of moss on it, which may be slippery. We agree, which is why we have been gaining quotes for a new floor covering and play equipment (similar to the trim trail) for this area. This is a lengthy process but we can now announce that the costings and design were approved by governors at the last full governors meeting at the start of this month. So watch this space!

Our Bronze, Silver and Gold badges – these are displayed on our school website so parents have access to them at all times. The children are able to tell you where they are and what they are working towards, as these are addressed

regularly in class time. If you, as a parent, are unsure and would like more details about how to help your child achieve their next badge, please do come and ask. All staff are happy to talk about this.

The school bell – we certainly can start ringing the school bell again in the morning to mark the start of the day. Please note that school day starts at 9am and the doors are opened from approx. 8.50am in order to allow parents to get to work and stagger the amount of traffic which can build up on the lane.

Community Events – due to Covid community events were restricted in recent years but we are certainly getting back on track with getting out into the community. Below are some of the events which we are doing:

- Children in Need bake sale
- Carols in the Community
- Church Services – Harvest, Easter, Christingle
- Providing readers for St Kathrine's Church Carol service (17th Dec)
- Well-Dressing
- Poetry Post – KS2 children write poems, then we go out in to the community to post them
- Summer Fair
- School Disco
- Bakewell Rotary Club involvement – Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to one of our Y6 pupils and they also donated money to our glockenspiels

If you would like to get involved, then the Friends of Rowsley School group would love to have your help and ideas about how we can get more involved in the community. Alternatively, you can always email me with your ideas at c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk.

Entering and leaving school through one door – for the safety and safeguarding of our children we will be continuing to let the children out of the doors currently used. The corridors in school are narrow and using just one door would mean over 40 children coming through one corridor all at the same time. We also like to make sure that each child goes home with the correct parent/carer. This is only possible if we continue in the current way so that staff can see them safely into the right hands.

There were lots of lovely positive comments too and we are glad that the children are happy and doing well in our school – this is certainly reflective in their attitudes and behaviour in school.

If you do have any further comments, or would like to make any further suggestions, please do contact me and I will endeavour to assist.

Governors

Many thanks to all our governors who volunteer their time to attend meetings. There are at least 3 full governing body meetings per year and then also a further 3 meetings for either resources and finance or teaching and learning. The governing body is made up of staff, parents and volunteers from the community. There is a page on our school website which will tell you who they are and what their responsibilities are <https://www.rowsleyprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=83>.

If you feel you would like to be a governor, or want to find out more about the role please do email me or Mrs Wyer.

Friends of Rowsley School

The Friends of Rowsley School is another volunteer group made up of parents of children at Rowsley. They have worked tirelessly to:

- arrange some amazing raffle prizes for this year's Christmas Raffle
- organise the school Christmas Games Day including a magician
- provide refreshments at the Nativity and Carols in the Community

They give up a lot of their time and energy all year round, not just at Christmas. I know that they would love your support, if you could spare some time. They have raised much needed funds for your children, and every penny raised goes towards trips, additional resources and treats.

The money raised by this fabulous group of individuals is very much appreciated by all of the staff and children.

What is going on in school?

Goodness me, this time of year has been so busy. We have to plan all these events well in advance in order for them to run smoothly and to provide maximum enjoyment for our children, so thank you to you all for getting involved and for keeping up with it all.

I love Christmas time in school – everyone is full of good cheer. Mother Teresa Class have a mischievous class elf – I know that several other families have these pesky elves too as I hear all about their crazy antics.

My favourite church service is Christingle and this year's did not disappoint. The children have been practicing their Christmas songs all half term and the choir have been practicing throughout the week at lunchtimes. I love to see the children with their Christingles lit and find it really special when the lights go out. It moves me every year.



This month I thought I would do something different for the classes and ask the children what they enjoy about being at school.

Here are some of their quotes about how they feel about our school:

"I like playing in the kitchen. I like reading the 'You Choose' book. Mrs Isherwood is smiley and Miss Lindley is always happy." EYFS

"I like doing science and art; we drew spirals and learned about cubism and Pablo Picasso." Y2

Rowsley School is really nice because we do fun activities. My favourite is art." Y3

"I like that we all get a say in what we think and I can play outside with my friends." Y3

"I like playing football at playtimes because I am with my friends. The school is close to my house and we always get a good school dinner. The teachers teach us things that we don't know." Y4

"We have three safeguarding teachers who keep us safe. I feel like I can talk to them if I need to and we have worry monster in every class so if we have a worry we can write it down and put it in one. We have a massive playground and not all schools have that." Y5

"I like the lunches because I can go for seconds. I like art too, it is much fun because we do lots of different things such as printing and painting and using pastels." Y5

"I love maths, it is so much fun. I have to add up loads of numbers and it is entertaining." Y5

"Being in Year 6 is good because I like sitting practice SATs and seeing what I need to work on. Claire the dinner lady is my favourite. She is an amazing lady and we're glad she's part of our school." Y6

"I like being in Year 6 because we have a pizza and water fight after SATs, I have loads of friends and I would recommend Rowsley. Everything is the best; the teachers and the community." Y6

Please see our Facebook page, Instagram page and class pages on the **website for photos of our work.**

Forest School

As always, Mrs Booker has been running some fantastic Forest School sessions. Our children are so fortunate to have this opportunity every week.



Communication

The ways in which we communicate are many.

You can keep up to date on our Instagram and Facebook pages, the school website, the monthly newsletter, the two bulletin boards outside, ParentHub and staff.

Every morning, whatever the weather, there are at least two members of staff on the gate welcoming each child individually. It is one of my favourite times of the day and gives me a perfect opportunity to speak to mums, dads, grannies, grandads, toddlers and even dogs!! Staff also see each child out at the end of the day.

Safeguarding at Rowsley CofE Primary

As we go into the new year and the holiday season, we want to remind of the ways you can support your young people online. You can find parental advice at <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Christmas can be an exciting time when people get together to celebrate, but it can also be a difficult time for many. If you are feeling lonely, worried or stressed you can email myself or Mrs Wyer. If your child is struggling to cope at this time they can contact Childline on 0800 1111 where they can talk to someone anonymously. Alternatively, you can find tips on helping your child at <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/how-to-help-your-child-if-christmas-makes-them-anxious/>

Remaining School Term Dates & INSET Days

Spring 1: 8th January 2024 to 16th February 2024

Spring 2: 26th February 2024 to 28th March 2024

Summer 1: 15th April 2024 to 24th May 2024 (6th May 2024 is a bank holiday)

Summer 2: 3rd June 2024 to 23rd July 2023

INSET Days

Friday 21st June

Monday 24th June

Calendar Dates for Next Half Term

Dates are subject to change, and more may be added, however we wanted to give as much advance notice as possible.

Date	Event	Details
Monday 8 th January	Back to school	
Friday 26 th January – Friday 2 nd February	Miss Lindley in India with Cemetery School, Kolkata	Watch out for more from Miss Lindley on this amazing opportunity!
Thursday 1 st February	Year 5 and 6 Netball at Longstone	Letter to follow after Christmas
Monday 5 th February	Year 3 and 4 trip to Creswell Crags	Letter was sent earlier in December, please return payment and consent by Monday 29 th January
Friday 16 th February	Last day of term	
Half term holidays		
Monday 26 th February	Back to school	

And finally...

The school newsletter can also be found on our school website and diary dates are on the school website calendar.

If you have any queries or questions, please do speak to us or arrange a meeting. You can email the school at info@rowlsey.derbyshire.sch.uk or email myself at c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk

If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter, please let me know and this can be arranged. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

Claire Hewitt

Deputy Head Teacher

