



January 2025

# Rowsley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems such a long time ago now, but the staff wish you all a very happy New Year and send best wishes for 2025.

It was great to see the children back after their two-week break; they returned refreshed and full of enthusiasm.

## Miss Lindley has been to India

I hope that you have all seen the blogs regarding Miss Lindley's visit to India. They are still available on our website (<https://www.rowsleyprimary.co.uk/page/?title=India+2025&pid=111>) should you wish to see them.

"After visiting India for the second time, it was amazing to see the difference that has been made in a year. Kolkata is an eye-opening experience. It is busy all the time, with car horns, dogs, people and traffic. The smell is overwhelming, and the air pollution is incredibly high. The work of the Cathedral Relief Service is so important. They don't just work with education in the slums, but they also have projects that help with healthcare and women's empowerment. The work is astounding and the impact on the people who live in the slums is invaluable. For example, I saw two children who attended Bhowanipore School last year, and this year they came to tell me that they had passed their exams and have got their place in a mainstream secondary school. The resources I took over to help support their learning e.g. maths manipulatives, books and educational games gave the children a different learning experience, as their typical way of learning is to copy from the blackboard. The use of these resources will hopefully be continued. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to have met some lovely children and teachers who care so much for the children who attend their school. The children work so hard in school by turning up every day with a smile on their face, and some teachers travel three hours a day to come to educate and care for the children. It was so important for our children to live the experience through video calls and pictures, as they were able to see first-hand how the children in the slums live and where they are educated". Miss Lindley.

Miss Lindley facetimes the children in school every day and they heard all about her activities and met some of the teachers too. The children had the opportunity to ask questions to learn more about life and education in India.



## What is Going on in School?

### **The Oliver Jeffers Class (EYFS, Y1 & Y2)**

Whilst Miss Lindley was away, Mrs Wyer taught the children more about India and they completed some lovely work for her. They learned how the peacock was the national bird of India and drew some using pastels. They then looked at how the elephants in India are an intrinsic and important part of both the cultural and geographic landscape of the country.



### **The Malorie Black Class (Y3 & Y4)**

Malorie Blackman Class have been busy since coming back to school in January. Our topic is *Climb Every Mountain*, so children have been writing about Sir Edmund Hillary and Junko Tabei, the first man and first woman to summit Mount Everest. The children have also been making fact sheets about Everest using Google Slides. In DT, the children are enjoying making photo frames for their woodwork unit. So far, the results are looking pleasing and the class were very sensible when measuring, sawing, sanding and gluing, we are looking forward to seeing the finished products.

Thank you to Miss Sutton's Nana Kay for coming in to help with the wood-work – she enjoyed it so much that she wants to come back!



### **The Benjamin Zephaniah Class (Y5 & Y6)**

The Benjamin Zephaniah Class have been busy learning all about the Shang Dynasty (one of my favourite topics). They have used some great research skills for their history work, and it was good to see them using their prior knowledge when discussing the hierarchy pyramid.

In art, we have been designing and sculpting dragon eyes out of clay. This topic uses many different skills, and I am really proud of their finished pieces.

We will be having a Chinese New Year Day on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, which should also be a lot of fun.



## Forest School

This term the children have enjoyed being outside enjoying frosty play. We are very lucky that the sun usually shines straight on the Green Zone during our sessions. Whilst Miss Lindley was in India, the children took part in mindfulness colouring of mandalas and some of the KS2 also had a go at henna painting on their hands using mud.

The KS1 children visited the Level Centre this week to learn about the seasons in their new display; Treescape. We are also well underway with our plans to revamp our woodland, starting with a new shed. In the next few weeks, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.



## Christian Values

Our Christian Value this month is Courage. For Christians 'having courage' or 'strength to carry on' is linked to faith in God's promises - promises of God's presence, protection and power. Famously Joshua, when taking over from Moses in the Old Testament, hears God say: 'Be strong and courageous.'

## Safeguarding at Rowsley CofE Primary

Next month is Safer Internet Day (February 11<sup>th</sup>). We will be looking at how to keep children safe on their devices in class and in Collective Worships. The theme this year is 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'.

Here is a link to some resources that we encourage you to share with your child: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/young-people/resources-for-3-11s>

On Tuesday 11th February Mrs Wyer will be running a webinar from 6-7pm online for parents to join. The aim is to ensure you are aware of the dangers of your children being online, as well as how to protect your children. Please join if you can via the link below: <meet.google.com/wah-wyjc-ehi> Details were also sent out via Parent Hub on January 29th.



## Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February. We are fortunate to have a key worker from our Changing Lives Team, based at Lady Manners School to come in and do workshops with all the children. They will also do a whole school Collective Worship.

This year's theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' and it is supported by Disney and the *Inside Out 2* characters. You can find more information on [www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/](http://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/)

This also links to this half term's PSHE topic on Exploring Emotions.

At Rowsley School we are proud of how we help our children with their mental health as we know just how important it is to help children recognise and express their emotions. We have members of staff who the children can talk to openly and confidentially - all their thoughts and worries are dealt with sensitively. It is important to us that the children of Rowsley School feel comfortable when talking about their feelings, and feel more connected with their emotions.

## Friends Of Rowsley School

Our PTFA continue to support us so well. They raised a fantastic £243 over the Christmas period. This went towards the cost of the bus for the children to go to the pantomime, party bags and activities for the Christmas Games Afternoon, and the chocolate from Santa.

There are a few more events coming up:

Spring Disco: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Rowsley's Got Talent: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March

And finally, they are planning on holding an Easter raffle in March.

The PTFA have also been successful in achieving a grant for £500 from Bakewell Rotary Club which will be used to buy a heavy-duty storage shed for the woods, as well as whittling gloves and knives.

**Please continue to support them as they do an amazing job in raising vital funds which directly benefit your children.**

**Thank you to all the PTFA who put in so much effort.**

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
<b>February</b>		
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 5/6 Chinese New Year Day	Children to wear something red, please bring in £1 towards the cost of resources and food items if you have not already done so.
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5/6 Netball	Longstone – children to come to school in PE kit
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day, including webinar by Mrs Wyer on online safety	Webinar 6-7pm, please join using the link above.
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	PTFA School Disco	3.30-5pm, Rowsley Village Hall Clothes to be brought in a separate bag
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Last day of half term</b>	<b>School closes for 1 week</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens	Start of Spring Term 2
<b>March</b>		
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day	Theme and separate letter to follow
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Ukelele Concert	Further details to follow
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Rowsley's Got Talent PTFA event	6.30–8pm at Rowsley Village Hall. If you child would like to participate, please let Mrs Middlebrook or Claire Harrison know as soon as possible.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Hockey	Tideswell – children to come to school in PE kit
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Last day of term</b>	<b>School closes for Easter Reopens Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>

## And finally...

The school newsletter can 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@rowsley.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@rowsley.derbyshire.sch.uk) or email myself at [c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk](mailto:c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk)

If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter, please let me know and this can be arranged. We wish you all a happy half-term break.

Live 'life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10b)

**Claire Hewitt**

Deputy Head Teacher