



Dear Parents,

The end of the first half term is upon us and what an action packed start to the year it has been! I am thoroughly enjoying my new role and have loved being fortunate enough to teach many of the children over the past six weeks – I will endeavour to have taught everyone before the end of this term. Visiting the classrooms is always a delight; watching the children learning and seeing our teachers work so hard is always a pleasure. As part of work to develop our learning behaviours, children are gaining confidence in explaining their learning and are increasingly able to articulate their 'next steps' and it has been wonderful to see children's progress in their books too. Indeed many children have visited me with their wonderful work to be included in the 'Book of Brilliance' and receive a Headteacher's Award. This is a lengthy newsletter as it has been a very busy few weeks so please do stick with it until the end!

Top Bananas

This week there was no whole school focus for our Bananas awards. Instead, the children have learnt about being 'thankful' for what they have to link in with this week's Harvest celebrations. Teachers have awarded Bananas Awards for a variety of different reasons, details of which are below:

C1	William	C12	George H	C2	Class 2	
	For settling into Year 1 from the start and always being ready to learn		For always working to the best of his ability in every lesson		For fantastic efforts with their handwriting to learn their lead in strokes	
	Kayetana					
	For settling into Year 1 from the start and always being ready to learn					
C3	Tom	C34	Class 34	C4	Ava	
	For applying his literacy learning to his History work		For all working hard towards our individual targets and our class targets making sure C3/4 is a happy, polite and hardworking classroom.		For being a brilliant friend and helping others achieve their goals	
					George	For being a brilliant friend and helping others achieve their goals
C5	Oli	C56	Fionn	C6	Polly	
	For working really hard on identifying his next steps in learning		For having a great attitude toward his learning		For her creative and imaginative homework	
					Ollie	
						For demonstrating kindness towards others



Staffing update

Mrs Johnson who has worked with Key Stage 2 children over the last year teaching Numeracy sets, is leaving to begin a new teaching appointment at a school in Wheathamstead. We thank her for the time she has given the school and wish her luck in her new role. For the time being, her role with the Year 4 and Year 6 maths groups for the remainder of the term will be covered by me on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Louise Robb, a very experienced teacher who has worked at the school before, for the rest of the week.

I am delighted to say that Miss Katharine Wooster has been appointed as the new class teacher for C1/2 and will join us from January. It is hoped that Miss Wooster will spend some time with her new class towards the end of the term in preparation for the new term.

Open Sessions

I was delighted that so many parents were able to visit the children in their classes as part of Open Sessions. I appreciate it is not always easy to juggle work commitments to be able to attend but hope that those of you who were able to make it enjoyed the opportunity.

Parent Consultations

During consultation evenings, both I and members of the Governing Board will be asking for your views about the school so if we approach you with an iPad in hand, please don't run away! We are keen to gather your views on the school as part of our self-evaluation process and thank you in anticipation of your support.

I wish you all a relaxing and restful half term holiday.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Webb
Headteacher



Message from the Governing Body

Firstly, for those parents new to Roundwood, a very warm welcome - we hope your children (and you!) have settled in well and are enjoying the start of their time at the school.

You will receive a newsletter from the Governors later in the term, but I wanted to write to introduce both myself and Hannah Jones as the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Board. We are both parents at the school and along with the rest of the Governors, look forward to working in partnership with Mrs Webb and her team along with all those involved in the school to achieve the best outcomes for the children.

Join the Governing Board!

We have a parent governor vacancy on our Governing Board along with vacancies for other co-opted governors. (A co-opted governor is appointed separately by the Governing Board based on having skills needed to contribute to the success and governance of the school and so does not need to be a parent). We are a committed, enthusiastic group from across the community and with Mrs Webb taking over the reins this is a time of real change and opportunity for the school, so a great time to be involved.

The role of a governor is a key one in any school, with the Governing Board as a whole providing strategic direction and accountability within the school. In general, we are looking for a broad and diverse skill set across the group, so would welcome people from a variety of backgrounds - but with the main requirements being enthusiasm, commitment to make a positive contribution to the school and having the time in which to participate.

If you have any questions or would like further details, please contact us at governors@roundwoodprimary.herts.sch.uk

To stand as a parent governor, please complete the attached form and return to the school office. Nominations need to be in by Monday November 7th.

Goodbye and thank you

After a number of years making a huge contribution to the school, Ian Hawkins and Liz Jack are stepping down from their Governor roles. We are extremely grateful for all their hard work and wish them the very best.

Mike Audis has also stepped down as Vice Chair although remains a Governor – a big thank you to Mike for his contribution in the role.

Getting in touch

We are always keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions about the school and to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to speak to one of us (you can find details of each of the governors on the website) or send us an email at governors@roundwoodprimary.herts.sch.uk

Many thanks – and have an enjoyable and relaxing half term.

Anna Hancock & Hannah Jones

Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Board



Harvest



Thank you to those parents who sent in donations for this morning's Harvest assembly. Children from Key Stage 1 lead the assembly sharing information about Harvest festivals from around the world and singing a selection of songs and Foundation Stage children also shared with us their 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' song. All food donations will be passed on to the local food bank.

The Young Shakespeare Company

Sixteen years ago, the young Shakespeare company started to visit the school and entertain Years 5 and 6 with their productions and I am delighted this tradition continues. The opportunity to watch and participate in live drama is very special and to watch the reactions of both the children and staff was wonderful. Last week saw Upper Key Stage 2 being entertained by a magnificent production of Macbeth with many of the children playing starring roles!

'This was the best school production I've seen in my 14 years being a teacher. It was a perfect balance between performance and interaction with the children. The children were gripped the whole way through – it was evident on their faces!' Miss Smith C5

'A wonderful performance that captivated the children from start to finish. The school hall was transformed into the wild moors of ancient Scotland. It was a real privilege to have seen it and all the children played their part brilliantly.' Mr Whitehead

Friends Children's Quiz Night

It was wonderful to see so many children working collaboratively last night to solve a range of tricky general knowledge and topical questions in the first ever Children's Quiz, with nearly 100 children taking part. The event was a huge success and grateful thanks go to the members of the Friends Association who organised the event and thanks also to the staff who helped during the evening. I hope the event can become a regular part of the calendar as it was a privilege to see the children sharing such an impressive selection of fascinating facts and knowledge!

Poppy sale after half term!

Year 6 children will be selling Poppies after half term as part of the Royal British Legion appeal. Please give generously.

Cross Country

Over the last few weeks the children in Year 5 and 6 have had the chance to come for Cross Country practise sessions held on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes. The purpose of these sessions is to enable me to choose a team to represent the school after half term at the Harpenden School Sport Association's Cross Country Tournament. The date of the tournament is Thursday 10th November with a reserve date of the 17th November in the case of bad weather. I am looking forward to choosing our final team of Year 5 & 6 children after half term.

On the subject of Cross Country, this year for the first time ever, we have decided to hold an internal Cross Country competition for Year 5 and 6. The details of this will come out after half term but keep your eyes peeled for exciting events happening!

BIKEABILITY

The Bikeability course for the Year 6 children who have chosen to join starts on 31st October. Please will you remind your child to bring their bike and helmet each day along with a coat and gloves as the course takes place in all weathers.

UIFSM – when we return we will be on Week 1 of the Menus

Wednesday mornings: Toddler Song

If you have a child or children below school age then we would love to invite them, and you, to join us for Toddler Song on Wednesday mornings. We meet in the dining hall at around 8:45 (immediately after school drop-off) and



sing traditional nursery rhymes for about 45 minutes, ending with a story and a biscuit. We request a donation of £1.50 per child, per week, all of which goes to the Friends. It is very informal (come along when you're free, no need to let us know in advance), lots of fun and a lovely way for your younger children to make friends and get used to coming into the school building.

If you have any questions please contact Kate Marriott (mum to Lara in C1) on 07712 924 991 - or just drop in on Wednesday!

Girls' Football Tournament



On Tuesday 11th October, nine girls from upper KS2 competed in a football tournament at the Grove.

Firstly, we played the Lea then The Grove and then Redbourn. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to win a game but we did draw with The Lea with a final score of 0-0. Also, Gunnersaurus refereed one of our games!

We had a great time and we were lucky enough to meet Alex Scott and Emma Mitchell from Arsenal Ladies. At the end, each school received an Arsenal gift, we got a signed ball and we each got a certificate. The signed football is currently kept in reception.

We had a great day and we couldn't of had this much fun without Mrs. Wakeman and Mr. Barker. *Caitlin and Maddie*



Following on from the girls football report written by Caitlin and Maddie we would like to say that we were delighted to have been given such a choice of girls to take with me to the tournament.

This year we have been running a girls football club at lunchtimes and Mr Barker and I have been delighted with the turn out. 26 girls from year 5 and 6 have come to the sessions, had fun and really developed their skills. The girls football club will be continuing throughout the rest of the term.

At the tournament we were delighted to see that our Roundwood girls behaved brilliantly. They showed respect for all teams saying well done, shaking hands at the end and thanking the referees who were also from Arsenal Ladies. It is a delight to have such enthusiastic children taking part in sport. We look forward to our next event which will be the Cross Country Tournament.

Mrs Wakeman & Mr Barker

Christmas Cards order

A few of you have informed us that you could not access the Christmas card website to place your order. The company has been contacted and they have informed us that they are having some website problems. Please could we hold off using the site until next week when it should all be fixed. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



Children In Need

We will be joining in with Children in Need's 'Big Spotacular' on Thursday 17th November. Children are asked to come to school wearing something spotty for a suggested donation of £2 on this day and the School Council will be holding a bake sale after school on the Key Stage One playground. All baking donations would be gratefully received and we ask that they be delivered to the School Office on the morning of the 17th November. Please be aware of the date as we are fundraising a day early due to the Year 3 and 4 trip on the Friday.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Cirillo and the School Council



Faith visitors

We are asking for volunteers to share their different faiths and cultures with the children to help them gain a greater understanding of the world that we live in. This might be in a small group, with a class or in an assembly. If you feel in a position to be able to help us then please let the School Office or your child's class teacher know.

Thank you in advance.

REMINDER: Secondary & Upper School Admissions 2017

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary and upper schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of Monday 31st October 2016. But would recommend that parents complete it by Friday 28th October, as there will be limited support available over the weekend for anyone having trouble applying.

Midday Supervisory Assistant

Hours: 6 hrs 40mins per week (5 sessions/ week) Salary: £2786pa (5 sessions/week)

We wish to appoint someone who is friendly, flexible and enthusiastic to our lunchtime team. You would help supervise our lovely and well behaved children both in the dining room and in the playground. The hours of work are 11.40 - 1.00, term time only. We are happy to consider applicants who are available just a few days a week. All employees at the school are subject to pre-employment checks, including the right to work in the UK, health checks and Enhanced CRB (our school being committed to safeguarding).

If you would like further information, please telephone the school on 01582 460756. Otherwise please send us your CV and letter of application together with details of two referees.

Dates for your diary for next half term

November	
Tuesday 22nd:	Reception Open Session 9.30—10.30am (Reception 2017/18 intake)
Friday 25th:	KS2 pupils packed lunches – RPK closed
Friday 25th:	Year 1, 2 & 3 Nasal Flu Vaccination
Monday 28th:	Reception Classes to St Albans Cathedral
December	
Thursday 1st:	Foundation Stage Christmas Play - 9am
Thursday 1st:	KS1 Christmas Play –1.45pm
Friday 2nd:	KS1 Christmas Play—9.15am
Monday 5th:	KS2 pupils packed lunches – RPK closed
Tuesday 6th:	Friends Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 7th:	7.30 pm. Rotary Carol Concert, Harpenden Methodist Church
Friday 9th:	KS2 Carol Service Harpenden Methodist Church 9.30am
Wednesday 21st :	KS2 pupils packed lunches RPK closed School finishes at 2pm



LEVEL 2 BIKEABILITY CYCLE TRAINING COURSE



Children attending the course **must**

- be 10 years of age (by 31 August this school year) or older,
- have a cycle in road worthy condition and
- have a properly adjusted cycle helmet to be worn when riding.

The course consists of 5 daily sessions (1 of 2 hours and 4 of 75 minutes).

The first session consists of a cycle check, and an assessment of riding skills on the playground.

Participants must reach the required standard in cycle control in order to proceed to the on-road riding sessions that follow.

On days **2, 3, 4** and **5** sessions consist of basic manoeuvres at local road junctions. These include left and right hand turns and over taking parked vehicles.

This course is designed to **improve** cycle control and introduce children to riding on the road, not teach them to ride a bike. Please note that only children who reach the required standard by the end of the course will receive a certificate of competence.

Parents can help their child progress through the course by giving support **beforehand**.

They can:

- check their child is able to :
Start and stop safely, ride in a straight line, use their gears & control their cycle when looking behind and when signalling.

Children will not be allowed to continue on road if they are unable to do this.

- Adjust the cycle helmet to fit correctly.
- Check that the cycle is roadworthy (the notes for parents on checking cycles give further information)
- Ensure children study and **learn pages 14 - 19 and 24 - 29 of the Highway Code for Young Road Users** as questions relating to this will be asked throughout the course.
- Advise the instructor if their child has special needs or there is anything they need to be aware of.
- Provide suitable clothes for their children to wear when riding as they will still go out if the weather is wet or cold. Gloves are ideal for keeping hands warm.

INFORMATION ON CHECKING CYCLES

Parents should check their child's cycle before the start of the course. **If, in the opinion of the instructor, the cycle is not in a road worthy condition, trainees will not be allowed on the course.** Faults are often easily put right but occasionally a new part is required. We should therefore like to draw your attention to the following:

MECHANICAL CONDITION

A mechanically sound cycle is a safe cycle. Make sure that all parts are in good repair and no parts are too loose.

FITTING

Check that the cycle fits the child, i.e. that the balls of both feet are on the ground whilst sitting on the saddle with legs straight. If feet are flat, raise the saddle. See also that the handlebars are at a comfortable height. Adjust both these at intervals as the child grows.

SADDLE

The saddle should be at a comfortable height for the rider (see above) and the safety mark on the stem should not be visible. Check the saddle nuts are fully tightened.

HANDLEBARS

In most cases, the handlebars should be roughly the same height as the saddle and they should not move independently of the front forks. The safety mark on the stem should not be visible.

WHEELS

Spin the wheels gently one at a time. They should spin freely without rubbing against the forks or brakes, and they should not wobble from side to side. Always check that the wheel nuts or quick release levers are fully tightened before you ride your bike.

Ensure that no spokes are missing.

TYRES

As on cars, worn tyres can kill. Tyres must have a reasonable amount of tread and there should be no bald patches. The side walls should have no splits or bulges. Tyres must be inflated to the correct pressure (shown on side wall). Check them before you ride by pinching the sides of the tyre together. If they squash easily the tyre should be pumped up.

BRAKES

Brake blocks and cables should be in good condition and brake levers adjusted so that they can be operated with the minimum amount of pull. If the levers touch the handlebars in the 'on' position, the cables are too slack. When sitting on the saddle the rider must be able to operate the brake levers without taking their hands off the handlebars. Levers should be so placed that the child's fingers curve easily around them whilst the palm of the hand is on the grips. There is a variety of levers available, be sure that the ones fitted are suitable for your child.

Brakes should be checked every time before you ride. Stand by the bicycle, apply the front brake and try to push the bicycle forwards. If the front wheel turns then the brake is not working properly. Repeat this test with the rear brake.

Look at the brake blocks. They should grip the side of the wheel rim exactly (not the tyres) when the brake levers are applied. If the brake blocks are worn down they should be replaced. Check that the cables are not frayed.

FRAME/FORKS

Cracks and fractures in the frame can be very dangerous. If you find cracks you **must not ride the bicycle**. Also make sure there is no serious rusting on the frame.

CHAIN

Oil the chain about once a month.

A loose chain may come off, get caught in the wheels and throw the rider off the bike. On BMX or single gear bikes check it by placing a pencil under the bottom part of the chain and lifting it. If the chain lifts more than 2cm it is too loose. Note that this test does not work for derailleur gears i.e. the most common gear system.

GEARS

Gears cogs easily get clogged up with dirt so keep them clean. Check the cables for fraying. Ensure that using the gear shift actually changes the gear and enables the rider to access all the gears.

PEDALS

The pedals should spin freely be undamaged. They should be fitted with amber pedal reflectors.

REFLECTORS

Bicycles **must** have a **red rear reflector**. Ensure this is positioned correctly and not hidden by mudguards, carriers or clothing. They should also have a white front reflector, amber reflectors on the pedals and white or amber reflectors on the spokes. Keep the reflectors clean – they do not work when dirty, and make sure they don't work loose.

LIGHTS (if fitted)

When ridden at night, a bicycle **must** have a red rear light and a white front light that shine brightly. Check them before going out; if the light is dim, change the batteries.

BELL

We suggest that a bell or alternative warning device is fitted. The correct position is on the left of the handlebar within easy reach of the grip.

BEING SEEN

Many accidents involving cyclists occur because a driver fails to notice the rider. Cycles must always have at least a red rear reflector and if your child intends to ride in the dark or in poor weather conditions, then they must also have lights. The use of high visibility fluorescent and reflective garments is strongly recommended. During the on road course pupils will be provided with a fluorescent safety tabard.

BEING SAFE

Trainees must wear their own cycle helmet at all times during the course. It should conform to *BS EN 1078:1997* or equivalent. It is essential that it fits snugly and is worn correctly. Help your child to adjust it properly.



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