

Roundwood Primary Newsletter 25th September

Welcome

All of a sudden Autumn – or is it Winter – has come! Your children continue to adapt positively and maturely to all changes and requirements at school – it is a pleasure to see how well they adapt but also to be happy and enthusiastic about being back at school.

At the end of this newsletter and in the attached photos, we want to share with you a brief overview of our plans to reinvigorate some of the outside spaces around the KS2 playground. This started a while back following the play equipment being installed on the KS1 playground, and has expanded to have focus also on also providing outdoor learning opportunities for the whole school – this not just brings the curriculum to life, but also can have a real benefit on the mental health and wellbeing of the children.

Friends have been fundraising for the playground over the last couple of years, and thanks to their amazing efforts and your support, we are now in the position to get on with some of the plans. What will happen first is the installation of some new play equipment, which with an all weather surface will be accessible to children all year round. We are working hard to accelerate the plans (hopefully some exciting news to come) and are all very positive about the opportunities they will provide.

You will hear more from Friends soon about their plans for the remainder of the year. COVID presents huge challenges for fundraising – and your support – not just financial – makes all the difference to the children.

Firstly though – some news and a few bits of housekeeping:

Around the school this week...

Harvest Festival

- A huge thank you all for your support today – you have donated over 400kg of food and provisions which will go to families in real need. A big thank you to Claire McShee and Kym Aston–Wright for taking all the donations to the foodbank.

Can you help?

- We are looking to set up our reading circle outside – if you're having any tree works done in the near future, we would be interested in your logs or bark chippings!
- We have been really grateful in the past for your 'DIY SOS' support in decorating and clearing our pond area of brambles, which all helps use our resources in the classroom. If anyone has any time – a couple of hours or whatever you can do over half term to help paint the outside of the Hive or clear the pond area we would really welcome the help!

Housekeeping

- Thank you for wearing masks or a face covering when entering our site and continuing to follow our rules in relation to drop off and collection times.
- Please make sure – now that the weather seems to have turned – that your children come to school wearing coats and appropriate clothes. We are trying to keep classrooms well ventilated, so warm clothing is recommended as it gets colder outside.
- We know it is not always easy to remember everything to bring to school – but please help us control the number of visitors to the site by double checking the key things in the morning to save the stream of lunch boxes/water bottles/reading books coming in during the day.

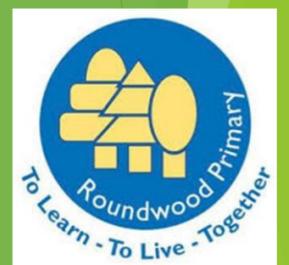
Pizza Thursday

- Next Thursday (1st October) we will have a Pizza Thursday, with Pepperoni or Cheese & Tomato Pizza, potato wedges, Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce. The Relish portal will update with this selection, so please take a look.



Top Banana winners this week:

C1- William
C1/2- Louis
C2- Harry
C3- Ernie
C3/4- Thomas
C4-Jacobo
C5-Frankie
C5/6-Eloise
C6-Evelyn



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Dates for Parent Consultations:

Given the current restrictions, we are planning to have these virtually over Zoom. We will send out details on how to book slots shortly – but in the meantime please note the session dates for your diary:

Y3 and Y4 - Monday 19th October afternoon and Wednesday 21st October evening
Y5 and Y6 – Tuesday 20th October afternoon and Wednesday 21st October evening
Y1 and Y2 – Thursday 22nd October afternoon and Wednesday 21st October evening
Reception – Monday 19th October morning and Wednesday 21st October evening
Nursery - Wednesday 21st October evening

Remote Learning Policy

I hope you all had time to read our Remote Learning Policy. May I remind you all that this only comes into action if children are self-isolating, quarantined or if the school goes into any type of lockdown. Staff are not in a position to send home learning home for any other absence - we would always encourage rest and TLC if your child is poorly.

Outdoor Learning - the Big Vision

All the team here are wholly committed to the promotion of positive mental health and wellbeing of all our staff, students and parents. We aim to achieve this through a whole school approach that reduces the stressors that leads to anxiety, provides support to those who may suffer from mental health related conditions, and educates all in how to lead a positive lifestyle in order to maximise physical, mental and social well-being.

As part of our whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing, as well as our recovery curriculum, we are planning to developing our outside learning spaces and Forest school areas. We, as a school, understand that there are growing concerns on the health and wellbeing of our children. Therefore this long-term approach will be key to the school's curriculum offer moving forward.

What are the Benefits of Outdoor Learning?

- enhanced personal and social communication skills.
- increased physical health.
- enhanced mental and spiritual health.
- enhanced spiritual, sensory, and aesthetic awareness.
- the ability to assert personal control and increased sensitivity to one's own well-being.

What will these Learning spaces include?

- An allotment
- Sensory walk
- Wildflower and orchard area
- Outside reading area
- Fire pit
- Forest exploration area
- Development of pond area
- Gazebo for use by the KS2 children at lunchtimes but also as an outdoor classroom

Have a look at the attached photos – we hope this will give you an overview of what we are planning – more news to follow!

Have a great weekend

All the team at Roundwood Primary

