



A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers

We are sending out our Christmas newsletter in advance of this year's festivities to give you plenty of time to see what's happening in school over the coming weeks and to ensure your child is organised and prepared, so that he/she can fully participate and enjoy the end of term merriment. It is also an opportunity to express my thanks to our staff for all of their hard work and commitment, to our pupils for their positive contributions, involvement and enthusiasm and to you, as parents and carers, for your ongoing support. It is very much appreciated!

The schedule of events is listed on page 3. Please come and say 'hello' if you are able to attend the church service, Christmas lunch or Frost Fair, it would be great to see you there.

The autumn term has been an extremely busy one, as usual, and I have been pleased to see pupils enjoying the recent improvements of the indoor and outdoor spaces. The outdoor trim trail has been well received, which all pupils have access to on a rota basis each week. The school reception area now gives our visitors a warm welcome and reinforces our school vision, motto and values. The walls of the downstairs corridors have been decorated to provide a stimulating and inspiring environment for learning and a bespoke timeline of historical events has also proved not only to be an educational tool, but a talking point. I notice something new every time I walk past!

The pupils have settled well to their courses and are now well on their way towards achieving their targets. I have enjoyed going into lessons to see pupils being creative, determined and trying their best. It has been a pleasure to take visitors around the school and hear some of the pupils' work being read aloud and for pupils to explain with such enthusiasm what they are learning. I'm sure our pupils are heading for another successful year.

This term, pupils have received a wide range of talks and presentations from guest speakers in assemblies and sometimes lessons, which we hope will educate, inspire and enable our pupils to appreciate the wider world. Speakers have come in from the local food bank, The Children's Society, South Staffs Water, The Dog's Trust, Thomas Alleynes for subject specific presentations, as well as our very own pupils and governors.

We were fortunate enough for some of our pupils to appear in a Christmas photo shoot for The Voice magazine, which will be coming through your door very soon. In the meantime, we would like to share (on the last page) our own Ryecroft photo with you from the shoot.

Christmas time is always a time to reflect on the experiences of people less fortunate than ourselves. As we reach the end of this term, we are therefore pleased to see how pupils have embraced the **value of this term** and demonstrated **compassion** in their behaviour as part of the mutual respect that we should show to one another. The fundraising activities this term also show how enthusiastically Ryecroft pupils do this. But Christmas is also a time for celebration and there is nothing wrong with a bit of escapism, so we have a few 'fun filled' activities planned for our pupils nearer to the end of term.

Finally, all that remains for me to do is wish you all a wonderful Christmas, I hope you and the children have an enjoyable and restful break and I look forward to welcoming you back to Ryecroft in 2020!

Yours sincerely

Miss R Baramuszczak
Headteacher

POLITE REMINDER



Can we please remind parents of our **NO** smoking policy on the school premises.

This also includes whilst sitting in a car, parked on our site.

E-Safety Information

Please visit our school website for information and links regarding 'E-Safety' (Information Tab)

SEVERE WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE!



As the winter months are now with us, we need to plan for the worst that the season may throw at us. It is most unlikely we will decide to close the school in the event of snow or other types of inclement weather. Should circumstances prevail so that a closure is necessary, parents should have arrangements in place so that their child has somewhere to go to during the day. Should it be necessary to close the school **during** the school day an emergency contact number written in the home-school link book is very useful. Invariably, the coach companies will monitor road conditions and may decide, at short notice, that they have to come and collect the children in order to get them back safely to their home village.

Parents Have a Key Role. During an emergency situation, schools must act in order to safeguard students and staff. Parents can assist greatly by being prepared before an emergency. Here are a few critical things you can do:

- Make certain the school always has accurate contact information on file.
- Provide your school with contact information for adults authorised as emergency contacts for your child.
- Talk to your child about what to do and how to contact you in an emergency.
- If you have not already done so, sign up to receive text messages and emails via Schoolcomms.

Getting Information. The school only has two telephone lines, if parents are phoning the school to check to see if we are open it inhibits our capability to make urgent phone calls. Therefore we would ask you to make use of the following services:

- *Receive Emergency Alert* text messages and emails via Schoolcomms – if you do not presently receive school information via text messages and/or emails but would like to do so, please contact Mrs Whitehall on 01889 590394 or alternatively email office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk. **Please also ensure that you inform the school should you change your mobile number and / or email address.**
- *School Web site* www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk – Please note that in the event of severe weather conditions we may be unable to inform parents of school closure via the school website as the website can only be updated from school.
- **Staffordshire County Council website** – www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education.
- **Sign up today** to the Staffordshire free email update service for urgent alerts, important news and a range of information straight to your email or mobile phone - <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Customer-Alerts/Customer-Alerts.aspx>

Our School Prayer

In our school day there is much to thank you for, but we ask. . .

Guide us through strife and insecurity and when sadness finds us, let your wisdom and confidence be there. As we use technology, may you help us store our memories, let us keep them forever.

If we use social media, help us to not get lost or lose what is important, let us also follow you. We are at the beginning, with a long path ahead, let our journey be safe, wherever and however we travel.

And when the path forks, help us choose what is right, when life tests us, help us then. As we think of others, our family and friends, let our love find them, with the colours of creativity.

Our prayer is for a bright future with doors open to us, let your light guide us, we can count on you. Remind us that we are only human and mere molecules, let us experiment with all we can be.

When the noise of the world drowns out our voice, let your words reach us, as we read and write. We have much we know our lives are wonderful, but for others with less, let them too see your light, and feel it fill their bodies.

Help us succeed, as we write our future with hard work and determination. . . . today, tomorrow and as long as we live.

Amen

In the lead up to Christmas we have some exciting events and activities taking place in school. Here are some dates for your diaries and calendars.

<p><u>Tuesday 3rd December</u></p> <p>KS2 THEATRE VISIT</p>	<p>Pupils in Year 5 and 6 will be visiting The New Vic Theatre, Stoke on Trent to see a production of 'The Prince & The Pauper'. As we will be arriving back to school too late for 'normal' lunch service, all pupils will need to bring in a packed lunch.</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 11th December</u></p> <p>CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS LUNCH</p> 	<p>We would like to invite all staff and pupils to wear their Christmas jumper on Wednesday 11th December in aid of Save the Children. The £1.00 donation for every jumper worn will go straight to the charity.</p> <p>Apart from the jumper pupils MUST wear their normal uniform</p> <p>You are invited to join your child for Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 11th December 2019 between 11:45am – 2:00pm – actual arrival time is dependent upon your child's year group as detailed below. The cost is £3.00 for adults and £2.25 for pupils. This is free of charge for those pupils in receipt of free meals, however pupils will still need to pre-order this meal.</p> <p>To assist the kitchen staff with numbers etc., tickets will be issued for each meal purchased (both adults and children). We therefore request that you send in your <i>non-refundable payment by cash or cheque (payable to Aspens Services Ltd)</i> in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and detailing how many adult and children meals you would like to purchase. Our Catering Provider is unable to accept payment via ParentPay. Tickets will be issued on receipt of this payment – for pupils eligible for free school meals, a ticket will be issued once they have pre-ordered their Christmas lunch. Due to the large amount of lunches provided on the day, lunches will only be served on a ticket basis – catering staff have advised that service will be on a 'No ticket, No lunch' basis. Therefore it is very important that tickets are kept safe and presented on the day.</p> <p>With the popularity of our Christmas Lunch and hopefully aid a swift service, we stagger arrival/serving times according to Year Groups. For those of you who have children in different year groups, we ask that you attend the time below for your youngest child, and your older child/ren will join you then.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 11:45am Year 5 pupils and guest/s ● 12:15pm Year 6 pupils and guest/s ● 12:45pm Year 7 pupils and guest/s ● 1:15pm Year 8 pupils and guest/s <p>To ensure we have sufficient food for everyone and to help service run smoothly on the day, we ask that the following deadlines are adhered to for both pupils and adults:</p> <p>Pre-order a Christmas Lunch/s by Friday 29th November Payment required for Christmas Lunch/s by Monday 6th December</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 11th December</u></p> <p>DISCO</p>	<p>6:30pm to 8:30pm – Entrance fee £2.50</p> 
<p><u>Tuesday 17th December</u></p> <p>CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE</p>	<p>As part of our Christmas celebrations, all pupils and staff from Ryecroft will be attending a Christmas service at St Michael's Church, Rocester. The one hour service starts at 11:45am and will include carols and readings from the pupils. Parents and families are more than welcome to join us in this celebration.</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 18th December</u></p> <p>FROST FAIR</p>	<p>We would like to invite parents / carers and pupils to join us at our 'Frost Fair'. This will be held during school time over two sessions.</p> <p><u>1:40pm to 2:40pm – Year 5 & 6</u> <u>2:40pm to 3:40pm – Year 7 & 8</u></p>
<p><u>Thursday 19th December</u></p> <p>CHOCOLATE BINGO</p>	<p>We would like to invite parents / carers and pupils to take part in 'Chocolate Bingo'. This will be held during school time over two sessions. All participants (pupils and adults) are required to pay £2.00</p> <p><u>9:15am to 10:15am – Year 5 & 6</u> <u>10:15am to 11:15am – Year 7 & 8</u></p> <p><i>Donations of any chocolate of all shapes and sizes is urgently required and gratefully received. Thank you</i></p>

The Staff and Governors at Ryecroft wish you all a

Merry Christmas

and look forward to seeing you in the

New Year



SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR CHILDREN ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2020

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