



The Ryde School

Newsletter

23rd October 2026

A Warm Welcome from Mr Frecknall

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of our School,

It is a real pleasure to share this newsletter with you, and I could not let it pass without saying a heartfelt thank you. Since becoming Headteacher, I have been overwhelmed by the warmth and kindness shown to me by every part of our school community. Your welcome has meant a great deal, and it has made settling into this role a genuine joy.

At the end of the first (8 week!) half term, I would also like to thank our wonderful staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment. Every day, I see the care and energy they bring to their roles, and our pupils are lucky to have them.

Speaking of our pupils, they continue to impress me hugely. With our whole school visit to Mountfitchet Castle and the numerous enrichment activities already undertaken (not to mention their attitude to learning every day), their enthusiasm, curiosity, and general joie-de-vivre has been wholly apparent in everything they do. I am immensely proud to lead this school.

I would also like to add a special thank you to our PTA – the lego event and Halloween disco were both hugely successful and their efforts in raising money for our school are second to none.

Thank you also to all of you for the way you have embraced all our lines of communication. Whether that is responding to the parent/carer survey, catching me on the gate in the mornings or afternoons, or sending messages in to the office; your feedback, ideas and support have helped us work together to excellent effect. I look forward to developing these lines further as time goes on.

Looking ahead, we have a busy and exciting second half of the autumn term. It is a busy run-up to Christmas, with performances, events and parent and carer activities aplenty. I very much look forward to seeing you there.

Have a restful, happy and healthy half term and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3rd November, ready to jump into Autumn 2!

With warmest wishes and thanks,

Mr Frecknall



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Our new Parent Governors

Thank you to everyone who showed an interest in becoming a parent governor of The Ryde School and to those of you who put your names forward for the vote. Following the two week ballot that closed yesterday, I would like to announce that your new parent governors are **Michael Boyd, Victoria Quarrell and Charlotte Burrows**. I look forward to working closely with them on the strategic future of The Ryde School.

Diary Dates for Autumn Term

Mon 26th October 2026 - Fri 30th October 2026
Mon 2nd November 2026
Tue 3rd November 2026
Wed 4th November 2026, 9:00am - 10:00am
Fri 6th November 2026, 10:00am - 10:45am
Fri 6th November 2026, 2:45pm - 3:15pm
Tue 10th November 2026, 9:00am - 10:00am
Wed 11th November 2026, 8:45am - 3:00pm
Wed 11th November 2026, 10:00am - 10:45am
Fri 13th November 2026, 10:00am - 10:45am
Fri 13th November 2026, 2:45pm - 3:15pm
Wed 18th November 2026, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Fri 20th November 2026, 2:45pm - 3:15pm
Mon 23rd November 2026
Wed 25th November 2026, 9:00am - 10:00am
Wed 25th November 2026, 10:00am - 10:45am
Wed 25th November 2026, 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Fri 27th November 2026, 2:45pm - 3:15pm
Tue 1st December 2026, 10:00am - 10:45am
Sat 5th December 2026
Tuesday 8th December 2026
Wednesday 9th December 2026
Friday 11th December 2026, 2.30pm
Tue 15th December 2026, 12:30pm - 5:00pm
Fri 18th December 2026

Half Term – School Closed
Inset Day – School Closed
Children back to school
Year 2 Parent Activity – Computing
Open mornings for Reception places 2027
Year 1 Parent reading session
Year 6 Parent Activity – Mathematics
Year 6 trip to Hazard Alley – Milton Keynes
Open mornings for Reception places 2027
Open mornings for Reception places 2027
Reception parent reading session
Image Theatre – Dr Dolittle
Year 1 Parent reading session
Follow up flu vaccination
Year 3 Parent Activity – Forest School
Open mornings for Reception places 2027
Year 4 Parent Activity
Reception parent reading session
Open mornings for Reception places 2027
Christmas Fair
KS2 Christmas performance (time tbc)
KS1 Christmas performance (time tbc)
Reception Christmas performance
Whole school trip to the Pantomime
Last day of term – 2:00pm finish

Please check the website for further 2027/28 dates



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Autumn Term activities

Whole school trip to Mountfitchet Castle – 23rd September 2026

The children had a great day when they visited Mountfitchet Castle. They spent the day discovering all the different areas of the castle and learning about how they were used in medieval times.



October is Black History Month

The whole school have been celebrating Black History Month with each class learning about a different famous person.

Reception - Bob Marley
Year 1 – Rhianna
Year 2 – Marcus Rashford
Year 3 – Lewis Hamilton
Year 4 – Lenny Henry
Year 5 – Stormzy
Year 6 – Simone Biles

Below you can read about how Reception class have been celebrating Black History Month

In Reception the children have been learning all about Bob Marley and have enjoyed celebrating his music. The children understand that people were unkind to Bob due to his skin colour and also his father's skin colour. Bob found peace in music and his music attracted birds, this motivated Bob and led him to writing 'Three Little Birds'. The children have been creating Jamaican flags, Reggae flags, portraits of Bob Marley himself and, junk modelling musical instruments such as maracas to play to his music.



All the children visited each others classes to see the displays that each class had created about the person they had been learning about.



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National Poetry Day – 1st October 2026

Year 6 had a brilliant time taking part in the National Poetry Day workshop with Simon Mole and Alim Kamara. They loved joining in with Alim's rap performance and brought lots of enthusiasm to the session. Inspired by the theme of *Wonder*, the children explored how everyday objects, such as a spoon, can be special and meaningful, before creating their own imaginative poems. Below are a selection of these poems. Please see the website for more.



I'm So...

Im So exited I feel delighted,
The butterflies in my stomach are ready to fly,
up into the sky.
All my worries have left my mind,
The calm in me is hard to find.
I feel like a bouncy ball bouncing up and down,
there is no trace of a frown.

By Lindiwe

I'm so *Saned*
My hands embrace me.
I ~~don't~~ know how to see
the confidence in me.
My tears flow like rivers.
my body quivers.
You *can* do this!
a voice yells,
suddenly, in my heart, resilience wells.

By Chidakh



Mental Health Awareness Day – 12th October 2026

World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health. It's also a chance to talk about mental health and how we need to look after it.

To celebrate this day and encourage positive mental health for all, every class had an activity planned in class on this day to promote positive mental health.

We also asked pupils to wear one item of something yellow to raise awareness about children's mental health. Please take a look at the website for more pictures of the day.

Breathe It Through

Stretch your fingers as wide as you can.
Take slow deep breathes in and then breathe out as you stretch
around each finger.



Take your time with it.
You might find it helpful to close your eyes whilst breathing through.

Find Your Calm

When you're feeling panicky or finding things overwhelming, it can help to name:

- 1 thing you can taste.
- 2 things you can smell.
- 3 things you can touch.
- 4 things you can hear.
- 5 things you can see.



Mental Health Awareness Day

Being Kind

- Asking for help
- Use our words
- Ask for a hug
- Share
- Use candle fingers
- Kind gentle hands
- play with each other.



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Free School Meals

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families to do their very best. This funding is called "Pupil Premium". If you are entitled, your children will receive free school meals and milk and half price on all school trips.

If you would like to check if your child is eligible you can do this by going to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. The school will only be informed if you are eligible. Please do not apply if you are already receiving this benefit.

Parking around the school

We understand that when the children arrive and depart the school there is a high volume of traffic and we would like all drivers to remember the code of conduct to ensure the safety of your children.

The yellow zig zag lines that run along the front of the school are to be kept clear at all times. The zig zags are there so the children crossing the road have a clear safe view of the road without obstruction. Parking on the opposite side of the road to the zig zags will also obstruct the view of anyone trying to cross.

Please be considerate to the local residents by not parking across driveways.

DO NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, the visually impaired and people with prams or pushchairs.

Important Health Reminder – Keeping our school community healthy

If your child has been sick, we kindly ask that they remain at home and do not return to school until at least 48 hours after their last episode of illness and until they are feeling well again. This includes symptoms such as vomiting and upset tummy (diarrhoea). Allowing adequate recovery time helps prevent the spread of illness and ensures your child is well enough to participate fully in school activities.

We understand that keeping children home can be inconvenient, but this policy is essential for protecting the health of the entire school community. If your child becomes ill during the school day, we ask that they be picked up as soon as possible.

School Nursing Newsletter

Please find a link to the latest School Nursing Newsletter.

<https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/7BK1-CJ6/hct-school-nursing-a26>

The newsletter contains health and wellbeing information, practical advice, and details of local support services available to children, young people, and their families.