



The Ryde School, Pleasant Rise, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 5DR

The Ryde School Newsletter

Friday 17th November 2023

Reading and The Ryde

With the publication of The Reading Framework by the Department of Education in July this year, we have evaluated the reading experiences we offer the children in school. One significant project we have undertaken is to restyle the classroom libraries. We have been careful not to overstock the class libraries and to ensure the books are matched to children's interests. The books have been rearranged over the school so there are several sets for each classroom that can be changed each term. Hopefully this will keep the children interested in the books in their classroom and keen to keep reading. We will be investing in more books next term and will be canvassing the children about their choices of genre and/or authors and in their wider interests. With the closure of the School Library Service some years ago, our Key Stage 2 non-fiction library has become in need of updating. This will take a big investment of both time and finance over the next year or two for it to be fully updated. We will be asking for volunteers to help us with this task. We will keep you informed of the progress we are making.

School Building

We were very fortunate to be given a grant from the government to improve the energy efficiency of the school. The amount was for £14,000. Our biggest expense in school is the cost of gas to fuel the heating and hot water, so our aim was to reduce this cost. Therefore, we have had energy efficient heating/air conditioning units installed in the rooms that would benefit the most, which are those at the front and rear of the building. This will ensure these rooms will be at a comfortable temperature all through the year. Hopefully we can fund more units in the future.

School Playground

We are in the process of working with the School Council to improve playtimes for the children now that the field is out of use. Already some improvements have been made such as basketball hoops, small tyres to play with, wooden blocks to construct with, as well as a defined Diddy Car area (with a moveable track). The children can also access: all of the climbing frames, the stage area, willow tunnel area and scoot board area. We will keep you updated of progress.

Governing Body

There is a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in this role, please contact the school office for more information.

Attendance Update

Our attendance is slowly improving and is now 95.2%. This is very positive and very good progress towards our target of 96.1%.

School Grounds

There has been further work carried out on the ground behind the nursery building. After the building was installed and the disturbed ground settled, the area became very uneven and was too unsafe for the children to use. I am pleased to say the contractors have been back and have relevelled the ground and reseeded the area. This will mean that by the spring the area will be fully usable again. This will be good news as teachers use this area for outdoor learning and it is a nice shady area for children to use at play and lunch times in the summer.

Calendar Dates

- Nov 21st – Nursery parent activity
- Nov 22nd – YR-Y6 Image theatre visit
- Nov 23rd – Year 2 Parent activity
- Nov 24th – Parent Council 9:00am
- Nov 24th – Reception Parent reading
- Nov 28th – Year 4 Parent activity
- Nov 29th – Nursery Story and rhyme time
- Nov 29th – Reception Parent forest school
- Dec 1st – Year 5 Brass music concert
- Dec 2nd – Christmas Fair
- Dec 4th-15th Year 5/6 Swimming not panto day
- Dec 5th – Year 1 Parent forest school
- Dec 8th – Reception Parent reading
- Dec 12th – YR-Y6 Pantomime
- Dec 13th – Christmas dinner/jumper day
- Dec 15th – Year 1,2&3 Performance*
- Dec 18th – Year 4,5&6 performance*
- Dec 19th – YN/YR Performance (9:15am)
- Dec 20th - Last day of term 2:00p.m. finish
- Jan 4th - Inset day - school closed
- Jan 5th - Children back to school

*Performances will be at 9:15am, 2:00pm and 4:00pm