

Lydgate School Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

It's the end of our first half-term. This is always a challenging time as new arrivals settle in, and existing pupils adjust to new classes and new teachers. We always experience some unsettled behaviour. The challenge has been added to by a series of very sad events in the lives of our staff. A number of staff have suffered the bereavement of very close family members, or serious illness among immediate family members. As a result we have had record levels of staff absence. Considering what the school has had to cope with, the staff have done an outstanding job, pulling together in an extraordinary way.

To add to our sadness, a school governor, John Barrett died unexpectedly two weeks ago. He was greatly valued for the gentle, calm professionalism he brought to the job, and will be sorely missed.

In the light of all this, we have seen a very successful start to the year despite some ups and downs. Some new pupils have made great progress and begun to engage with school in a very positive way.

I am particularly pleased with the quality of the team this year. I feel we have the capacity to build on the dreams we have for these young people as we look to the new school. Our young people are doubly precious because of the level of need, and deserve the best. We are working hard with the contractors to try to make sure the provision at the new school will be outstanding.

We've also had some successes, like winning the West Yorkshire Under-16 Football Tournament! Well done those lads! You will see from the following pages that pupils have been having lots of other fun. We feel happiness comes

first; a child has to be ready to learn. Once we have got them on board and feeling confident they make much better progress.

Meanwhile have a very good half-term. I hope you and your families enjoy the time together.



Mrs Rogers

October 2016

Autumn Term

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West Yorkshire Football Tournament

Two football teams went to Middleton Leisure Centre in Leeds to compete in the West Yorkshire Football Tournament. They came up against teams from Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford. The 'A' Team won all their matches beating East SILC from Leeds in the final 3-0. The 'B' team won 1 match, drew 2 and lost 1. This was a big improvement from last year as the 'A' team came runners up and the 'B' team lost all their matches. Well done to all of them.



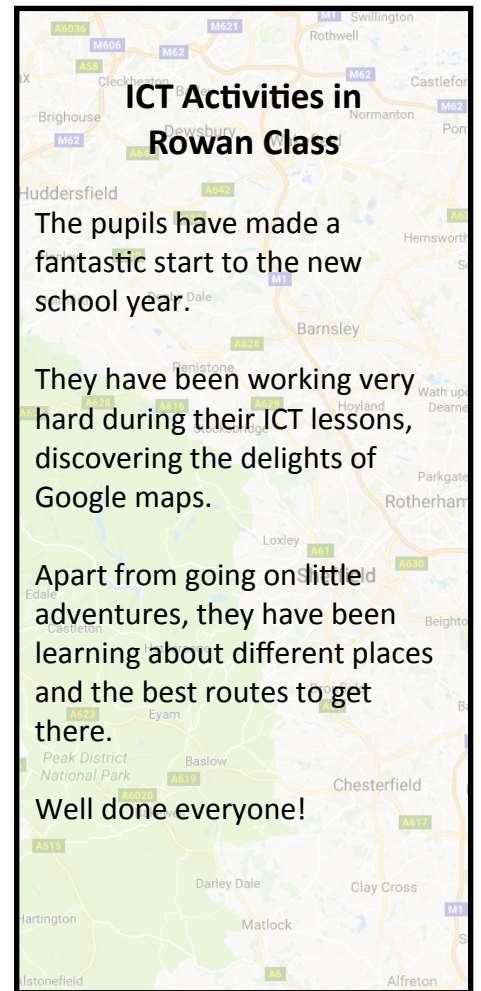
ICT Activities in Rowan Class

The pupils have made a fantastic start to the new school year.

They have been working very hard during their ICT lessons, discovering the delights of Google maps.

Apart from going on little adventures, they have been learning about different places and the best routes to get there.

Well done everyone!



Activities in Rainbow Room

This term the children have been getting to know each other and have been doing a variety of activities such as playing games, role-play, baking, sewing (among others!)



They have also been talking about safety both inside and outside of the school.

Hare Class Stuff

The pupils in Hare Class have been working hard this term. They have enjoyed movement classes every day. Also they have been cooking. Here you can see them making rice crispy buns and butterfly buns.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2016

The DofE is the world's leading youth achievement award – pushing personal boundaries, gaining new skills, and enhancing pupils CVs and job applications.

This years DofE group have got off to a flying start with:

- Jam making on the allotments which went down a treat in classes as their favourite breakfast spreads!
- Sausage cook outs, den building, blackberry picking.

As part of our volunteering section for the award we have been helping out at Little Deer Woods shifting piles of bark chippings and dead wood.

Last year in school we had 5 pupils complete their awards and we hoping for another 5 this year.



Out and About

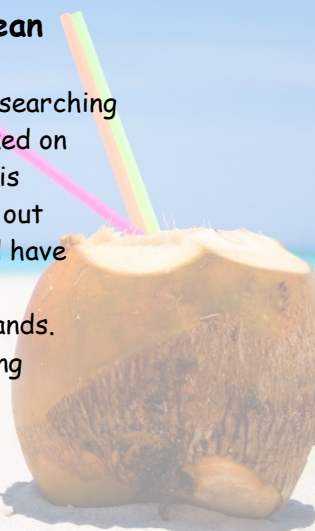
Hedgehog Class went out to the park.



They had lots of fun.

A Taste of the Caribbean

This week Cedar Class are researching the Caribbean. We have looked on the map to find out where it is in the world. We have found out about the foods they eat and have compared the sizes and the population of some of the islands. On Thursday we will be visiting a Caribbean restaurant and hopefully trying out some of their food and drink.



Outdoor Adventures

Outdoor adventures on Thursdays have got off to a VERY busy start with a number of Cliff House visits where students have been mini den building, scavenger hunting, bush craft and fire lighting. George even experienced his first marshmallow toasted on a campfire and loved it!



We have enjoyed the adventure playground, getting lost in some tractor tyres!

Also we have been out cycling at Spenbrough with our good friends at Street Bikes.

Our regular Thursday afternoon walking groups have already enjoyed trips to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, allotments, Yateholme and many October blackberry picking trips. We are having a great time!



Notice Board

Diary Dates

October

- 19 Parents evening
- 21 Break up for half term
- 31 Back to school
- 31 Shabang fundraiser

December

- 2 Christmas Fayre
- 14 Christingle
- 14 Christmas dinner
- 16 Disco
- 16 Break up for Christmas holiday

January 2017

- 3 Inset day - school closed to pupils
- 4 Back to school

February

- 17 Break up for half term
- 27 Back to school

Shabang Fundraiser

We are having a fundraising day on Monday 31 October to raise money for Shabang in Huddersfield as their premises were damaged by fire in the summer. Pupils can come to school in non uniform/fancy dress (no masks please!) Please send in £1 donation - thank you.

Bun Sale

There will be a bun sale on Friday 21 October to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Pupils can buy a bun for 30p. The buns have been made and decorated by pupils in Maple Class as part of their ASDAN qualification.

SOUTHGATE NEWS

- Building work is on schedule but a decision has been made to replace windows - which could have an impact on completion dates.
- Demolition has revealed some hidden features that will enhance the build, like some wonderful arching in the Main Hall and roof lights in the Dining Hall.
- We have gone out to tender for two sensory rooms.



Kirklees Consultations

The council are proposing to close/withdraw funding from services such as Duke of Edinburgh, WYPAT etc which will impact on our children. Would you please go online and complete the surveys to help keep these services - the links are:

www.kirkleestalk.org/index.php/get-involved/early-help-consultation

www.kirklees.gov.uk/AADsurvey

Thank you

