



Mail on Friday

Redhill Primary Academy and Nursery

Weekly Newsletter

Email us at: parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk

World Teachers' Day - Saturday 5th October

This week, it is the turn of the teachers to be showered in praise as we note just how wonderful they are. Here at Redhill, we are incredibly fortunate to have exceptional teachers who always go the extra mile for the children.

The children have been asked to write messages about their teachers in celebration of World Teachers' Day this weekend. Here are just a few that we would like to share with you:

Mrs Thorpe (Sarah) - I like when she helps me, she gives me cuddles when I am sad. She's happy and funny and sings.

Mrs Brisco (Miranda) - She's really happy and makes me feel special. She plays games with me in afterschool club.

Miss Farmer - She helps me with my work, she is nice and kind of cute. I like Miss Farmer's toys.

Mrs Breakspeare - She is my favourite teacher because she teaches me everything. She helps me learn and I like her hair.

Mrs Parker - She tells us good stories and she is funny. She is a good teacher because she knows things. I love her very much!

Mrs Kirkpatrick - She teaches us a lot of phonics and she is caring. She helps us with maths.

Miss Price - She is good teacher and makes our learning fun. She looks after us. Thank you, Miss Price.

Mrs Morris - She is helpful and especially in maths. She is caring and she is one of my favourite teachers so far.

Miss Knowles - She's the best teacher we've ever had. She is funny.

Mrs Preece - Thank you for being really kind. You help me on the computers and make all your lessons fun.

Mrs S. Davies - She is very kind. She makes us feel like we can do any work and if something is hard, she will help us so it seems easy.

Mrs Fance - She is so kind, helpful, caring and funny. I love being in her class!

Mrs Richards - She is kind and helpful. If you are stuck of anything, she is always there to help.

Thank you, Mrs Richards!

Mr Hodgkison - He always makes funny jokes and so our learning is always fun.

Thank you, Mr Hodgkison, we love being in your class.

Mrs Davies - She is nice and caring. She is very helpful. She makes our lessons really easy, but we always learn lots.

Miss Williams - She is very helpful; she respects us and gives us lots of opportunities to talk. She is sweet and kind and says lots of funny stuff.

Mrs Bell-Ward - She is kind and caring and helps us lots. Thank you for making our class a fun environment.

Mrs Coughlan - She is really kind and makes all the lessons fun. Thank you for genuinely caring about the students and wanting the best for us. She wants us all to be safe and does everything to put us first.

Mr Baldwin - He is thoughtful and makes his lessons fun. He's imaginative so that the lessons are never boring, and we always learn a range of a things. Thank you.

Mr Griffiths, Mr Hodgetts and Mr Taylor - I love their lessons as they we learn so much whilst having fun at the same time. Thank you for making us want to take part in all types of sport.

Mrs Cartwright—Thank you for helping this lovely school by doing kind deeds and by being the best deputy head we could ask for. We are so lucky to go to this school.

Mrs Whiting—Thank you for leading this school with such kindness and care for everybody in it. You make this school an unbelievably happy environment. Every student you have helped to grow is so lucky to have you.

Educational Trips and Visits

As a school, we have always placed great emphasis on bringing the curriculum to life and offering our children hands on experiences. Cognitive scientists believe that these experiences equip children with the knowledge they need to succeed in later life. Therefore, in recent years, we have been able to extend the number of visitors and the amount of trips and visits that the children take part in, with many parents, carers and visitors often commenting on how wonderful this is. We believe that these experiences cannot be entirely replicated in the classroom and embed the children's learning, helping them to progress, and remember these key experiences for many years to come.

However, over this same period, we have seen contributions that parents and carers make towards these trips and visits steadily decline. Whilst we are aware of the financial pressures that parents and carers are currently under, we are also finding that our school budget is becoming tighter year on year. We do not receive any specific funding for trips and visits and have had to fund this shortfall now for many years, which could have been used in a whole host of ways to support learning inside the classroom.

We are sadly having to consider the viability of some upcoming trips and visit. We would ask that if you are able to, please contribute towards school trips and visits, even if it is not always the full amount, so that we can continue to offer our children these vital experiences.

Armed Forces

Do you work as part of the Armed Forces? Are you an Armed Forces veteran?

As part of our remembrance services, we would like to invite you to take part in some of our events.

If you are interested please contact Mrs Davies by emailing parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk

Parent Helpers

We are looking for volunteer parents/carers who can offer general support in school at a time that is convenient to you.

We are also hoping to hear from volunteer parents/carers who can offer reading support during the following times: 8.50am-9.10am and 2.30pm-3pm.

Please email parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk to be sent a volunteer application form and pack.
Thank you.

A Resource for Parents and Carers

This week, Mrs Rock, our SENDCo, has come across an article which she would like to share with you. We have summarised some key points for you which we think could be useful.

The article based on a global analysis of children's eyesight, states that one in three children are now short-sighted or unable to see things in the distance clearly as a result of children spending more time on screens and less time outdoors. Myopia usually starts during primary school years and tends to worsen until the eye has stopped growing, at about 20 years of age.

UK eye experts advise that children should spend at least two hours outside every day, particularly between the age of seven and nine, to reduce their chances of being short-sighted.

It is also recommended that parents take their children for an eye test when they are seven to 10 years old, even if their vision was checked at a younger age. Parents should also note that myopia runs in families. If you are short-sighted, then your children are three times more likely than others to be short-sighted too.

Myopia cannot be cured but it can be corrected with glasses or contact lenses.

You can read the full article here: [Myopia: One in three children are short-sighted - study - BBC News](#)

Lost Property

We have a significant number of clothing items in lost property already this term. Many items are brand new. Unfortunately, none of the items are named. If you are aware that you are missing items, please can you ask your child to inform the class teacher so we can assist the children to find their clothing.

If the items remain unclaimed, they will be passed to the Friends to be sold as second-hand uniform.

If we notice any unnamed items, we will use specialised clothing pens to initial them unless any parent informs the school that they wish for their child's clothing to remain unnamed.

Y4 Cardingmill Valley Visit

Year 4 have recently visited Cardingmill Valley as part of their work in Geography where they have been looking at rivers. It was an exciting time to go because of all the rain. We learnt about the different features of the upper course of a river. Children are looking forward to using their knowledge to support their writing back in school.



Harvest

For harvest this year, we will be working alongside the Telford Lions. As always, we encourage children to think about our whole school values and this year have decided to donate our Harvest donations to Telford Crisis and Maninplace. Both are incredible charities that support families and individuals who could have become homeless, faced a particular trauma or who are struggling to afford the basic essentials. We would be grateful if you could make a small contribution of a non-perishable item e.g. a tin, packet, toiletries, household cleaning product.

We would like children to bring these items into school on
23rd or 24th October
ready for our Harvest assembly.

Contact Details and Consent

Please remember to keep your contact details up to date on Arbor.
If you ever want to withdraw your consent for the Academy to process your data, please fill in the consent withdrawal form which is available on our website.

Reminder

Reception Welly Walk

Starting Thursday 10th October, both Reception classes will be visiting Forest School every Thursday. We are looking forward to exploring our outside environment whilst learning about seasons and the world around us. We will be going out whatever the weather so please send your children in with appropriate clothing to change in to. We recommend this includes items such as waterproofs/splash suits, wellies, warm coat and clothing, hats, gloves, scarves etc. Please be aware these sessions can get messy in some weather conditions so old clothes are suggested.

We can't wait for our Welly Walk Fun!
Miss Farmer, Mrs Parker and Mrs Breakspeare



Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2024

iOS 18 Launch

Apple have recently released their latest operating system, iOS 18. iOS 18 offers lots of new features (some are restricted to newer phones) but one feature that you should be aware of is the ability to now lock and hide apps.

When an app is locked, Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode will be required to open it. This also means that notifications will no longer be shown for that app. Additionally, apps can now be hidden so they can only be accessed through a hidden apps folder that is also locked. This new feature illustrates the need to have regular chats with your child about what they are using their phone for.

Vault (secret) Apps

Have you heard of Vault Apps? They are basically secret apps that are concealed by looking like a normal, less conspicuous app. For example, one of these apps looks and works like a working calculator when opened, but when a passcode is entered, it reveals photographs, videos, documents and contacts. One way to prevent your child from using these apps is to ensure parental controls are set up so you can review all app purchases. You can find out more here:

- <https://www.bark.us/blog/find-hidden-apps/>
- <https://www.safes.so/blogs/vault-apps/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams



What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE launches Age Guidance

EE has launched age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://newsroom.ee.co.uk/ee-launches-age-guidance-for-smartphone-usage-in-drive-to-improve-childrens-digital-wellbeing/>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then Which? provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Instagram: new Teen account features

You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account.

Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls and send disappearing messages.

Users can also upload to 'Stories' (which disappear after 24 hours), broadcast live and upload reels (short videos).



Teen accounts – NEW feature

Instagram have introduced Teen Accounts to try and create a safer experience for them. With a Teen Account, who they can contact is limited and the content they access will be set to the most restrictive setting to reduce exposure to sensitive content. If a teen would like to override any of these settings, then they will need their parent's permission by setting up parental supervision. These changes will be in place for all new users straightaway so any users that sign up that are under 16 will automatically be given a Teen Account. Existing users will be moved over to Teen Accounts over the next couple of months (in the UK).

Supervision settings – new features

Instagram already offers a supervision facility, but they have added to the features to include:

- The ability to see who your child has messaged in the past week (you will not be able to see the contents of these messages)
- The option to block your child from accessing Instagram at certain times e.g. during school or at night.
- The ability to see what topics your child has chosen to see.

Read the press release from Instagram, which outlines all the upcoming changes: <https://about.fb.com/news/2024/09/instagram-teen-accounts/>

You may not be seeing everything!

Did you know that you can hide your stories and live videos from specific people so your child could be uploading content but restricting your account from viewing it?

Safety Features

Ensure your child knows how to report posts and people, how to unfollow and block people, delete and turn off comments. View here: <https://help.instagram.com/269765046710559>

Make sure your child understands that there is a risk that content they upload can be shared with others without their permission as other users can screenshot it.

More information

- Visit the family centre to learn more about the features available: <https://familycenter.meta.com/uk/>

Learn Through Play with Sesame Street

The Sesame Street website has a whole host of resources, activities, and games from supporting with learning ABCs to discussing tough topics such as grief.

<https://sesameworkshop.org/>

Expert Approved Apps for Learning at Home

On the Google Play Store, you can find a list of expert approved Apps for learning at home suitable for children up to the age of 12.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/category/FAMILY>

Be aware of what you share

Get Safe Online have produced a set of tips to help you avoid oversharing and outlines what the consequences might be if you do:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/whatdoyoushare/>

Staying safe online with Google Families

Google have a one stop resource to help you and your family stay safe online. It includes how to set up parental controls and important steps on how to keep your children safe online. You can find out more here:

<https://families.google/>