

Ranvilles Junior School

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Be you
Explore
Excel

22 July 2021

Headteacher's July Newsletter

Dear Parents / Guardians

We have reached the end of term and a very long, very different academic year! The children have been amazing in their outlook and I congratulate them for being so incredibly responsible, positive and thoughtful. They have ensured 'bubble' boundaries have not been crossed, washed their hands regularly like clockwork, played in designated zones, eaten their lunches in classrooms, adapted to sitting in rows and so much more. This change has been considerable for them; so much 'typical' routine has been lost as we adopt new practice. Still, they come to school with happy faces, smiles and a determination to do well.

Some of our children have and are experiencing some anxiety in their personal lives, in part related to Covid-19 change and the differences it has made at home and in school. They have had to dig deep to overcome some fears; I am so proud of every one of these children who, once settled in school, achieve so much.

In this newsletter, I will share exciting updates, positive changes and routines planned for the coming months and next academic year.

Year 6 Leavers

It is time to say farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils who, having completed their journey at Ranvilles, are preparing for new ventures at secondary school. Our Year 6 pupils have matured incredibly over the years. So many quiet, thoughtful, hard-working pupils deserve to be recognised for their sustained commitment and focus during a very difficult time. A range of characters, some with big personalities, and others who are much quieter naturally complement each other in this team - they have shared a unique experience this academic year and made the most of limited opportunities available. We wish all of our wonderful learners every continued success at secondary and know they will continue to shine. We encourage them to 'Be you...Explore...Excel' and hope they do this with ever growing confidence and self-belief.

Welcome Year 3 2021 - 2022

For their first school day at the Junior school, Year 3 children are invited to arrive at the slightly later time of 9.10am. Y3 parents should come onto the school site with their child/ren where they will be welcomed by staff. Mr Castell, Miss Hunt, Ms Lenaghan (SENDCo / Year Leader) as well as myself will welcome everyone before escorting the children to their new classrooms. Your children will be familiar with the site and their classrooms through their four transition visits. Parents will be able to see end of day meeting points. We are really looking forward to meeting you all.

Year 3 children will leave at 3.30pm, with the rest of the school, on the first day. Teachers will match children to parents. On the second morning, children will come to school at the normal time. Staff will welcome and help them.

September Plans

Schools receive daily updates from the Department of Education. Our proposed plans for September are outlined in the table below but may be subject to change.

Arrival Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children should arrive between 08.45am and 08.55am and enter the site via any gate• Staff will supervise the children• Parents are discouraged from entering the site at this time unless they have an appointment – this minimises the number of people on site• Children will go straight to their classroom and wash hands / sanitise before lessons
Departure Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School will end at 3.30pm for all pupils• Parents should enter via top gate and exit via lower gate (for a little while longer)• Each year group will be given a meeting zone; the teacher will walk the children to this zone at the end of the day, ready to be collected• Each zone will be visibly identified for you to locate• Parents – please wait in your youngest child's zone and ask your elder child to meet you there• Y3 zone - meet on the small playground• Y4 zone – right side of the big playground• Y5 zone – left side of the big playground• Y6 zone – amphitheatre• You will recognise your child's class teacher who will walk the children to the zone (check website for photos)• If you wish your child to walk home on their own, please email the school office admin@ranvilles-jun.hants.sch.uk identifying your child's name, class and stating you authorise for them to walk home without adult supervision – thank you
PE Kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank you to all parents who have placed an order for school PE kit. Please remember, you can place this order in September too. Please also note – wearing PE kit to school is now part of school uniform – thank you• You will be updated with your child's PE day in an additional letter which will be posted prior to them commencing PE in September
Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clubs will gradually resume and will update you regularly• Keep checking ClassDojo for updates
Pencil cases and personal belongings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children do not need to bring any equipment into school for use – it will be supplied• Fidget toys/resources will only be acceptable for children who need them – this will be confirmed by Ms Lenaghan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water bottles are needed – children are encouraged to drink water at school
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have finalised improvements for Homework for next year. We will email this information to you in the first week in September.
School calendar 2021 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A calendar will be published to identify key events, which we hope you can join us for. Please remember INSET days are 2 & 3 of September 2021, 4 January 2022, 18 February 2022 and 6 June 2022

Exciting Updates

CCTV

When our min-bus was sadly vandalised, parents generously rallied around and donated £1000.00 for the installation of CCTV. We are most grateful for this donation. On 16 August, Kestral Guards are installing 10 cameras externally (there will be no internal cameras in school) at a cost of £3500.00, with Ranvilles PTA kindly donating £1000.00

Solar Panels

26 solar panels have been installed on our roof and they generate 11.7kw of electricity when the sun shines bright. Simon Williams, our Site Manager, checked them several times this week and is happy to share that we were generating 95% of our own electricity. We are very impressed and this will obviously reduce cost over time.

New Windows and External Doors

As part of the government decarbonisation project, specific windows are being replaced in Years 3 and 6 classrooms. This is planned for over the October half term owing to delay in securing materials. All classrooms will then have an external door too, which is positive news for us.

Painting

Mr Williams and some colleagues will be busy painting classroom walls over the summer. Each classroom will have a colourful feature wall and we are pleased that this will lead to them feeling fresher and looking better.

New Furniture

We are buying colourful new chairs for each classroom and the school hall. These chairs are more comfortable, bright and I am sure the children will prefer them

Picnic Benches

We are having a picket fence built and new chipping laid in the area where the picnic benches are situated. This will smarten the area and create a designated outside space for children to eat at lunchtime and work at other times.

William Price Charitable Trust

We are thrilled and very grateful to have received £19,282.00 from William Price Charitable Trust. I placed a bid for new outside classrooms and large wooden reading areas and the Trust granted full funding. This will be transformational for us as we will be able to use the areas for so many different purposes to aid learning and school life. We are genuinely so delighted and very excited to see our school continue to improve.

Litter Pickers / Willow's Poem

Children will be supporting our Site manager to keep litter at bay by litter picking during break times. Willow in Year 4 led an impressive assembly, encouraging children to think about pollution and the positive impact we can have on the world by making small, significant changes. 16 litter pickers have been ordered and a volunteer team will be identified in September to keep our school grounds litter free. Thank you Willow for taking the initiative and creating change – you are a little star!

School Counsellor

I am delighted governors have supported me to secure a school counsellor for Ranvilles' children. Mrs Elsen has vast experience working in education settings and secured her Counselling degree from Chichester University. This backing from governors validates our commitment to support all our children emotionally as well as socially and academically.

Laptops / ICT Equipment

We love our ICT suite but are delighted to share that classrooms will have more laptops for children to use from September. We have also budgeted for the purchase of more tablets, and look forward to buying these in September for children to use regularly.

Reading Books

We have spent £3000.00 on additional reading scheme books to support developmental readers to become confident and secure. These books are 'real' books but banded by colour so we can differentiate ability and with your help, encourage children to make good progress. Children on the reading scheme will have regular opportunities to bring reading books home and to change them.

Our school library will also be back in action and children will be able to visit regularly.

Music Teacher

We have secured a peripatetic music teacher for September. Paul Johnson is a specialist who will support our children to actively engage with and enjoy musical

instruments and song. Our school choir will also be able to have dedicated time to practice. We will share how the choir will be established in September.

The Beehive Room

We are delighted to be able to support RNFPS (Royal Navy Families People Service) by offering a room for family use – The Beehive. Meetings will be every Monday morning; volunteers leading this have worked in close partnership with the school to facilitate evening opportunities too. It is good to be able to welcome Navy families in order for them to meet and support each other practically and through friendship.

Communicating with School over Summer

Child Protection – if you have any concerns regards any child please contact Children's Services on 0300 555 1384 Monday to Friday between 09.00 and 17.00.

ClassDojo

Current class teachers will make a final post on ClassDojo tomorrow. Academic year 2020 – 20221 classes will then be archived. The new classes are already up and running.

Teachers currently dedicate time on a Friday to write up a summary of the week for parents. We are unsure how valuable you find this. Please can I ask you to comment on this Dojo post or a previous week's post, if it is something you like to read and appreciate. This will help us to decide what to do next academic year – thank you.

Please note – teachers will not be active on ClassDojo through the summer break at all. Please wait until September to contact them.

Thank you & Some Goodbyes

Staff

I would like to thank the Ranvilles whole staff team for the phenomenal job they have done over this last year. It is hard to describe the operational part of our jobs that ensure the smooth running of the school but without everyone 'stepping up', going above and beyond, this year would not have been so successful. Academically, teachers strive to ensure children thrive to the very best of their ability; this has proved challenging too in these difficult times but again, teachers stepped up and embraced new challenges, doing their very best to meet pupil and community needs. I consider myself very privileged to work alongside my colleagues and thank them sincerely for their hard work, dedication and commitment to children.

Farewell

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Wallace, our SENDCO, who has dedicated many years to supporting our children. Mrs Wallace has played an instrumental role in many children's lives and I thank her for her dedication, kindness and commitment to make a difference. She has loved her role and made significant changes and improvements, We wish her all the very best in her new venture.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Foster and Mrs Calvert. These two amazing ladies have dedicated many, many years to Ranvilles and will be missed by children and staff alike.

Mrs Calvert has also been instrumental on residential trips to Marchants Hill, looking after our children and leading on First Aid. Her organisational skills are phenomenal and we have been very grateful to her for dedicating so many additional hours to children over the years.

Mrs Foster has kept us upbeat and energised especially through her focus and humour during lockdown when the school was open for children. She has enjoyed each day and the opportunities it brings. The children in Year 5 this year will miss her most as this is where she has dedicated most of her time – Alfie was very proud to share with me that he credits Mrs Foster for teaching him to read with confidence.

We wish all three of our staff leaving every continued success and much happiness in all they do. I especially thank them for their dedication, commitment and difference they have made.

Finally, to all our parents who have extended support and positivity, we thank you too. We know many of you are also key workers, playing a vital role in this pandemic. Thank you for your kind words, vote of confidence and continued support – it is very much appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very good break – we may not be travelling far but we can enjoy some relaxation time and hopefully spend more quality time with family and friends. Enjoy the summer and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6 September 2021.

With Very Best Wishes



Angela Williams

Headteacher