



Rufford Church of England Primary School



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'Together in Faith and Learning'

25th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday the infant children took part in an exciting virtual workshop with Axel Scheffler the illustrator of Julia Donaldson's books. During the presentation Axel read 'A Squash and a Squeeze' to the children and they even saw a recorded song version performed by Julia Donaldson and her husband.

The children were led through a step by step challenge to draw a Gruffalo and they all had a go, working alongside the illustrator.

There were some fantastic attempts and they really worked hard on their drawing skills.

Thank you to Mrs Murphy for organising this special event through Ebb & Flo bookshop.



I am delighted to report that, following a successful recruitment process, Mrs Turner's maternity leave will be covered by Mrs Ewins from September 2023. Mrs Ewins joined us as a teaching assistant in September 2021, having previously worked in Wigan schools as a teacher for 20 years.

She has now decided that she is ready to return to teaching and I know that she will continue to be a very valuable asset to school in her new role. This appointment means continuity for the children in school as they already know Mrs Ewins. The current Reception children will have the opportunity to work more closely with her during the next half term, allowing them all to strengthen their relationships with each other ready for September. I hope that you will join me in congratulating Mrs Ewins on her appointment.

Our Worship theme for the first week back after half term will be... 'Rules for Living'

We will be considering why we need rules in our daily lives and how they help to improve things so we can all live harmoniously. We will look closely at our school rules and think about how they help us to live out our Christian values. We will look at the rule of law as a British Value and how respect for the rule of law means that everyone in society is treated equally and fairly. We will consider how following the same rules and laws helps to promote a sense of order and stability in society. We will discuss rules laid down in the bible as we study the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments.

Father Mark and Danny will lead whole school worship on the Wednesday morning.

New school opening hours from September 2023

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the Government White Paper 'Opportunity for all' sets out the expectation that mainstream schools are to open for at least 32.5 hours by September 2023. This equates to 6.5 hours per day for pupils. On our return for the new academic year in **September** the school day will run from **8:45am until 3:15pm**.

'Let your light shine in the world' (Matthew 5:16)

The school gates will be open, and children supervised on the playground from **8:35am**. The whistle will be blown at **8:45am** for registration. Those families who make use of the Early Drop Off facility with Tree House Club will be able to drop children from **8:20am**.

School Meals

Payment (via Parent Pay) for school meals for the second half of the summer term 2023 are as follows:

Monday 5th June to Friday 21st July - 35 days or 7 weeks, cost £2.30 per day, £11.50 per week

Total cost for half term £80.50. Please ensure that all outstanding Parent Pay balances are cleared prior to the start of the new half term, thank you.

Online Safety Workshop for parents/carers – 8th June at 7pm

This virtual Online Safety Presentation will take place on Thursday 8th June at 7pm via Zoom. During the 90 minute session, Richard from the Stay Safe Initiative, CIC, will help us to understand young people's digital lives a bit more, including the risks. He will provide straight forward help and advice to keep everyone safe. It is hoped that, by running this event online, and enabling participation from the comfort of your own home, we can maximise uptake and attendance.

We are very grateful to The Friends PTFA for their donation towards this workshop.

Reminders will be sent out after half term, but please see the message posted on Seesaw on 2nd May or check your emails for the Zoom link.

Friends of Rufford School PTFA

The Friends are trying out a new idea for Father's Day Gifts this year.

Last month the children designed a Father's Day chocolate bar wrapper in school. Orders are now being taken for these personalised Father's Day chocolate bars via the PTA events page and must be placed by Wednesday 7th June - one per child please.

In addition, you may also order DIY kits for 'Someone Special' to create at home suitable for grandads, uncles or other loved ones - order as many as you like.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofruffordschool/>

Pre-loved uniform items, including cardigans, jumpers and summer dresses are available to purchase by contacting Abi Williamson on 07739 566821.

The next Friends meeting will take place in the school hall on **Tuesday 6th June at 2pm**, everyone is welcome.

Orders for June's Veg. Boxes need to be placed by **Monday 5th June** for local delivery or collection on **Wednesday 7th June**. Please use the following link to order:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofruffordschool/>

Friends of Rufford School, Account number: 61064851, Sort Code: 40-24-14, Ref: Veg

INSET and Half Term Holiday

School will close for the half term holiday at 3:15pm today, **Thursday 25th May**. Tomorrow, **Friday 26th May**, is staff INSET meaning school is closed to all pupils.

School will reopen for the second half of the summer term on **Monday 5th June at 8:55am**.

Wishing everyone a very happy half term break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rachel Ellera
Headteacher



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