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Friday 18th December 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Where do I start? There are not many times when I am lost for words, but as we near the end of the term and 2020, like many people, I cannot quite believe what has happened.

We have all had to adapt in ways that we could never have imagined, and had to find ways to make things work as best as we can. As a school community, we should all be very proud of what we have achieved during this unprecedented time. As a result of these partnerships, our children continue to be happy, thriving and enjoying their learning. Our sense of belonging has never been stronger.

We are always working closely in partnership with yourselves and many other members of the community, however, this pandemic has only enabled us to strengthen and develop this further to overcome the many barriers we have all encountered. #REACH



As I am reflecting on our achievements during last year, I am feeling so grateful. Whatever the challenges we have faced as a community, together we have always been determined to find a way to make things work. This 'CAN DO' attitude has enabled us to continue to move forward and REACH up higher to enable our children and each other to not only survive, but thrive.

In a world which often operates at such a fast pace, we are often very good at reflecting and focusing on what we can do to improve further, as we all just want ourselves and each other to be the best we can be. Making a difference is what drives us forward. That being said, is it crucial for us all to stop and reflect upon things that have gone well and what we have achieved, despite COVID. I thought I'd capture a few things to share:

- ✓ 362 children have safely and happily returned to school and are loving their learning each day.
- ✓ The pastoral support provided by staff working in their bubbles, and by Miss Robinson and Miss Potton, has been exceptional for our children and families.
- ✓ We have worked closely with Pinnacle (As a PFI school – they operate the site) and together we have had to adapt so many aspects such as site management, the way to organise lunches and the upscaling of cleaning; these have been continually reviewed throughout.
- ✓ Who knew that Zoom would become a key feature for parent meetings, staff meetings and staff training? Zoom assemblies each week have been a great way for us all to come together to focus of key learning, particularly around wellbeing. The dance moves each class share at the start of each assembly really has made us all smile. We have also enjoyed our Friday celebration assembly each week, recognising children who have gone over and above on our chosen theme. They have been coming out to the front of the class and have been so proud of themselves. We have also enjoyed sending surprise recognition postcards out over this last term and will continue to do this.
- ✓ Last term our subject leaders worked relentlessly, not only to support the children, but to redesign their area of the curriculum to reflect the research from the world of cognitive science and how children learn. This term the leaders have supported teachers in implementing this new approach and design. We are very excited and can already see the impact this will have upon our learners and their knowledge and skills.
- ✓ There have been so many kind words of support from yourselves and we are very grateful to you for this. Your trust in us to make the right decisions for our children and school community has been a real support to us during the difficult times. Genuinely, your appreciation and kind words – in person, via email, Facebook,



cards... really has made a difference to the whole team.

- ✓ Remote learning has been a whole new world for us all, with innovative approaches to online learning and Google Classroom. We recognise that this has not only been a huge change for our staff team, but for you too. Having to learn and support your child/ren in accessing home learning, whilst juggling work and family commitments – no small feat! Well done!
- ✓ The wonderful team in the office and many members of the leadership team have had to be flexible beyond belief. Having to respond to emails, phone calls, positive cases, changes to staffing and many others aspects, at such short notice to keep the school open and safe.
- ✓ Together, your children have raised funds for Children in Need (Gunge the Teacher), treats for the residential homes, funding for the 'Community - Little Library,' food bank donations, plus much, much more.
- ✓ We have made Christmas happen in our own unique way: panto, Jumper days, Santa, Present wrap for families and created videos to share with yourselves.
- ✓ On behalf of our children, yourselves, the governors, myself – THANK YOU to our wonderful, caring and positive staff team. The way you have had to adapt so quickly to ever changing challenges and supported our children, families and each other has just been incredible. I am so proud of you all and the way that we have only grown even stronger as a team, so would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU!

Thank you!

What Happens During the Holidays Regarding COVID?

In terms of the Christmas holiday, I hope everyone remains well and the following information is not necessary. However, it is important for me to be clear about what to do if needed.

- ⇒ If your child has been in school this week and **develops COVID symptoms on Friday 18th Dec, Saturday 19th Dec or Sunday 20th Dec**, please get your child tested immediately. **You will only need to inform us of a positive test result.** Please email us admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk (Please name the subject of the email – POSITIVE CASE).

In this scenario, we would then email anyone who is a close contact and inform them that they would need to isolate for ten days. Fingers crossed, this will not happen.

(No need to inform us of negative tests during the break as your child would not be in school anyway).

- ⇒ **If your child develops symptoms from Monday 21st December onwards**, please take your child for a test and follow government guidance. However, **there is no need to inform school**, as your child will not have had contact with their bubbles within in the last 48 hours so school would not need to take any action.
- ⇒ We will return to school on Monday 4th January. If your child is isolating on this date, please email us at the end of the holiday. Please note government guidance has changed and the isolation period for contacts is now 10 days, rather than 14 days.

How Can We Protect our Children and Community?

When we return in January, we really need everyone to be extra vigilant. If you suspect your child may have COVID symptoms, please ensure you access a test before they return to school. We have done so well up until this point; we really do not want to have to close bubbles unnecessarily. If in doubt, please access a test for your child and help protect our whole school community.

Christmas Celebrations!



Christmas has been in full flow this week. Children in EYFS and KS1 have had a visit from Santa and his friends. They even received a special gift! Once again, Peter Smith and the team at 'Dementia Friendly Rothwell' - you are amazing! Thank you for making this possible; even COVID could not stop Santa! The smiles on the children's faces were just priceless!



It was wonderful seeing our children in our school hall for their Christmas lunch. Thank you so much to the cooks for helping to make this happen. The children were so excited and enjoyed their delicious meal!

The raffle prizes were drawn today; the children were very excited and we have had winners across school. Thank you.

Your donations for 'Christmas Jumper Day' have been used to purchase some treats for residents at Dolphin Manor, Mulgrave House and Hannah House.



Pinnacle PSG/QED Christmas Card Competition.

We have two winners from our school who have been selected by Pinnacle for their amazing Christmas card design.

For EYFS/KS1, congratulations to Jessica for your wonderful design.

You have won a special prize - we hope you enjoy it!



In KS2, we have a winner within school who is also the overall winner across all 10 schools! Congratulations to Libby for your creative design.



This year we have had to rethink and find new ways to make our usual Nursery Sing Along, Reception Nativity and KS1 Nativity happen. Thank you so much to the teams for thinking through the many obstacles and finding a way to make this possible. A link and password for your child's phase has already been emailed out. Please note - these login details are for the use of parents/carers of children within the phase and should not be shared wider, inline with GDPR regulations. The children are just fantastic and should be very proud of themselves. Well done team!!!

For children in LKS2 and UKS2, the children have recorded a little message which can also be viewed on the private YouTube channel, using the login details provided. Again, these login details are for the use of parents/carers within the phase and should not be shared wider, inline with GDPR regulations. We hope you enjoy!



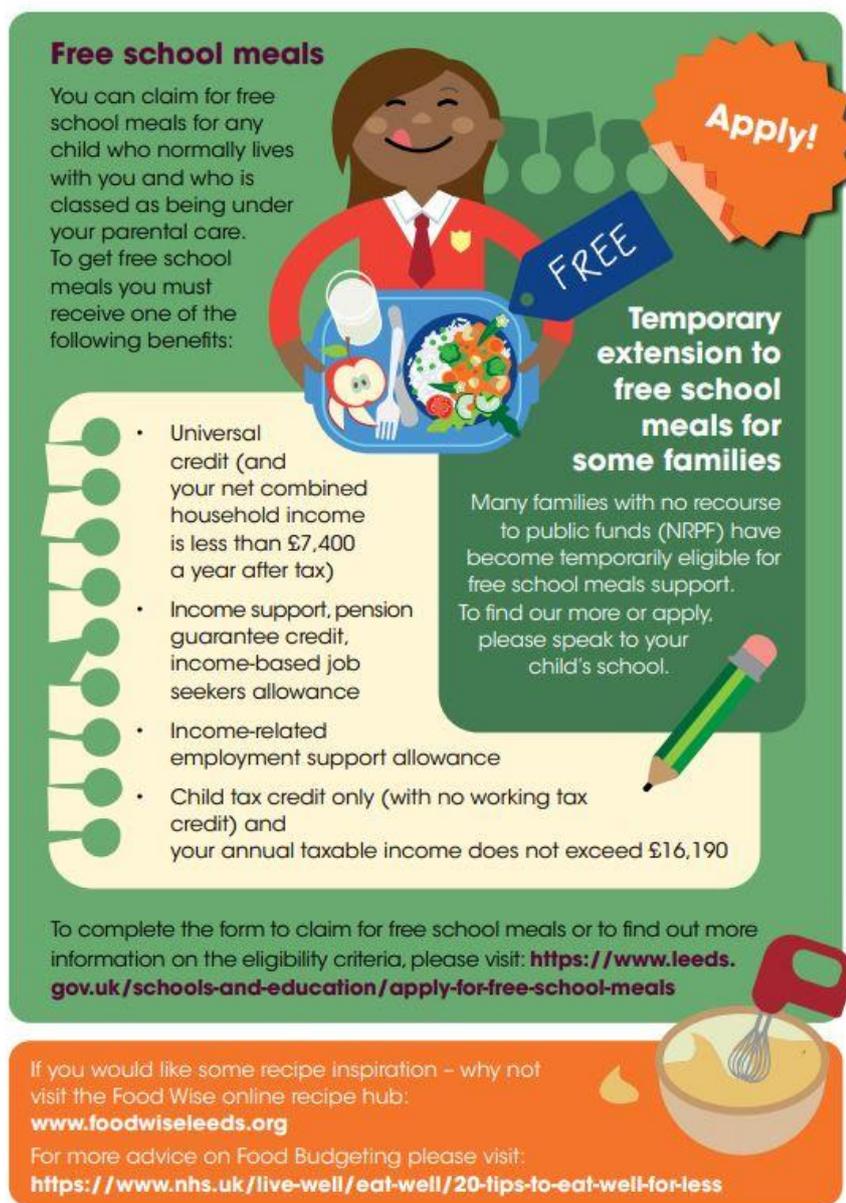
We have also compiled a Christmas video message for our school and wider community. The is available to view on our school Facebook site. A masive THANK YOU so Sarah Bindon who has worked tirelessly to compile the EYFS/KS1 and the Community videos – you really are just fantastic!

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and send our best wishes for 2021. We look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 4th January.

Thanks again for being on board with us every step of the way!

Merry Christmas from

Leila Rothenburg and the wonderful team at Rothwell Primary School.



Free school meals

You can claim for free school meals for any child who normally lives with you and who is classed as being under your parental care. To get free school meals you must receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal credit (and your net combined household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax)
- Income support, pension guarantee credit, income-based job seekers allowance
- Income-related employment support allowance
- Child tax credit only (with no working tax credit) and your annual taxable income does not exceed £16,190

Temporary extension to free school meals for some families

Many families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) have become temporarily eligible for free school meals support. To find out more or apply, please speak to your child's school.

Apply!

FREE

To complete the form to claim for free school meals or to find out more information on the eligibility criteria, please visit: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals>

If you would like some recipe inspiration – why not visit the Food Wise online recipe hub: www.foodwiseleeds.org

For more advice on Food Budgeting please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/20-tips-to-eat-well-for-less>

If the following applies to yourself, please email school and we will be in touch when we return in January. This is also the case if your child is in Reception Class and KS1. Even though your child has a Universal Free School Meal due to their age, by informing us that you are entitled to free school meals, may mean an increase in funding for your child's phase.