



Dear Parents / Carers

We have come to the end of a very busy term and the children and staff are looking forward to a well earned Christmas break!

I would like to thank you all for your continued support over the last term. It was lovely to see so many of you attend our online Carol Concert and listen to the children sing some lovely Christmas themed songs!

We will be sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Allen & Miss Morjaria and we wish them all the very best for the future.

A big thank you to everyone who helped contribute to our Poppy Appeal with the children buying snap-bands, rulers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers etc. We raised a fantastic £621.58 for the Royal British Legion

I hope you all have a peaceful Christmas holiday and a good rest and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best Wishes,
Mrs Bailey



Key Dates: Christmas Holidays 20/12/ 21 to 03/01/ 2022

05/01/22	Children come back to school (Except Nursery)
6/01/22	Nursery children back to school
13/01/22	Year 6 Curriculum Parent Meeting
17/01/22	Reception Curriculum Parent Meeting
18/01/22	Year 1 Curriculum Parent Meeting
18/01/22	Y5 Trip - National Space Centre
20/01/22	Year 2 Curriculum Parent Meeting
21/01/22	Bonsai (DSP) Curriculum Parent Meeting
24/01/22	Year 3 Curriculum Parent Meeting
24/01/22	Y6 Redwood Trip— Warning Zone
25/01/22	Year 4 Curriculum Parent Meeting
25/01/22	Y6 Ash & Elder Trip— Warning Zone
27/01/22	Year 5 Curriculum Parent Meeting

Half Term—14th—18th February



School Matters!



If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office **EVERY** day of your child's absence. Please either ring the school office and leave a message on the absence line or report your child's absence via the school gateway app.

If you do not contact the school, our Attendance Officer will ring you or send you an email / text. Attendance is monitored on a daily basis and if your child's attendance falls below 92%, s/he will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer, unless there are genuine reasons.

The school day starts at 8.40am. The school gates are open from 8.40am and close at 8.50am. If your child arrives after this time, then you **MUST** take you child to the office to be registered. These procedures are in place to ensure every child is accounted for in the event of an emergency and to ensure the health and safety of your child.

Extended holidays will only be granted in exceptional circumstances; it will NOT be granted for a family holiday!



Curriculum News



Nursery

Nursery children have made great progress this half term. We are making friends now and really thinking about our learning and using our imagination in our play. We are becoming more confident with our scissor skills and getting better at sharing and taking turns. This half term we have been learning all about Fairy Tales and so have enjoyed learning the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We made porridge and oats cookies to share with Goldilocks, they were delicious! In Maths we have learnt about big and small and found objects in and around the Nursery to match the words. We have also enjoyed the snow day and created snow angels and snow globes for our display boards.



Merry Christmas from all the children and staff in Nursery!

Reception



What a fantastic half term we have all had! The children have particularly enjoyed their English unit on 'The Three Little Pigs' and have all learnt how to retell the story using actions. As a part of their learning, we spent the day at Coombe Abbey Country park where we explored the woods whilst hunting for the big, bad wolf. We then spent some time in small groups building houses for the pigs in the woods and testing them to see if they could be blown down. It was a fantastic day! The children have also enjoyed preparing for our Christmas Carol Concert by using Makaton and Sign language to sing Christmas songs.

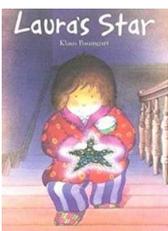


Year 1

In Year 1 this half-term we have been learning about a range of different materials. We have learnt that materials have different properties for various purposes and have sorted lots of classroom objects. We have continued to learn about childhood by sorting toys from the past with toys from the present day. After learning about toys and materials we also designed our own toy and thought about the most suitable materials to use. In English we thoroughly enjoyed the story 'Ollie and the wind'. We innovated the original by changing the weather type to rain and snow. We created some beautiful rain, wind and snow artwork for our Winter displays based on the story. We also enjoyed our music and movement session with Kim from Kimbles earlier this half-term. We were able to practise our fine and gross motor movements whilst moving to music.



Year 2



It's been another busy term in Year 2! We have really enjoyed learning the text 'Laura's Star' and then creating our own version of the story. The children used conjunctions to join and extend sentences. After this, the children learnt about time connectives and learnt the text 'How to Catch a Star'. From here the children used their imagination and created their own version of something they would want to catch. For example, an Elf or Santa. The children have been learning about Christianity and we have had a lot of fun learning about Christmas and creating Christmas decorations. During Maths the children have become more fluent with their times table and division fact along with learning about 2D shapes. Keep logging onto Times Table Rock Star! The children also took their Phonics Screening Test in November – Well done children for trying so hard to pass your test. We have noticed the children that are reading at home and making better progress in school so please keep reading with your children and signing their reading record book. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year.





Curriculum News



Year 3



During the second half of the Autumn term, Year 3 have really enjoyed basketball in P.E. and they have really improved their ball skills. We have celebrated Diwali by learning the story of Rama and Sita, making biscuits and creating Rangoli patterns. The children have learnt how to behave when they are around dogs and how to treat them kindly. In English, we have continued our work on character through "Matilda" and how to write a letter of apology. In maths, we have continued to develop our calculating skills with multiplication and division. Our topic work, has helped the children compare how people lived in the Bronze age and Iron age. We are now celebrating and learning about Christmas by learning carols and making decorations.

Year 4

We started the half term with a fantastic trip to York, it was a very long journey but was well worth it. The animatronic characters were amazingly lifelike and the smells made the whole experience unforgettable. The Year 4 children enjoyed the trip immensely and the Year 4 staff were very impressed with the behaviour and enthusiasm shown by the children. We are now experts on The Vikings, just look at our fact files!



We continued to study Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, we all have our favourite characters and role-playing Verruca Salt and Augustus Gloop has kept us entertained for hours.

Owen the Poet has been working with us every Monday and will continue to do so until half term, when we will visit the Y Theatre and perform our poems. More information to follow.

Science has been really interesting this term, we have learnt all about our skeletons, our digestive systems and our teeth. A couple of the experiments were rather yucky though, particularly watching the eggs soaked in sugary liquids. Year 4 will all be brushing their teeth at least twice a day after observing those results!

Next term, we start swimming. The Year 4 children will swim on Friday afternoons at the Cossington Sports Centre. We will leave school during lunchtime, walk to the pool, swim and be back in school for homework.

Winter is here, our displays on Winter Facts have caused quite a lot of interest. We have also talked to the children about staying safe in winter, making sure they can be seen during these murky evenings and not playing on frozen water.

We wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

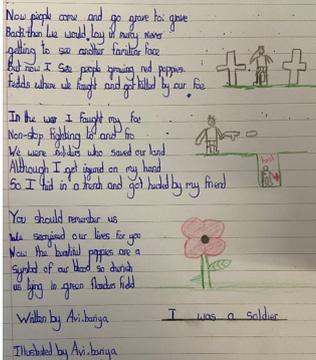




Curriculum News



Year 5



Year 5 have had another fantastic term and have been showing off their reading skills. We are very fortunate to be involved in the library's Our Best Book competition again this year, which means the children have been reading some amazing new books and they will be voting on their favourite in the next few weeks.

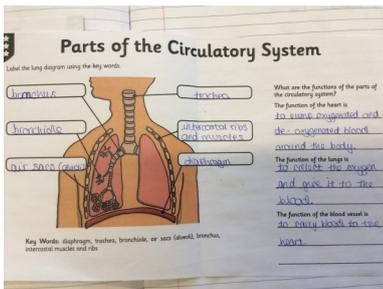


In Topic, the children impressed the teachers with their creative skills as they made masks and vessels out of clay with the Taotie motif. They spent the whole morning sketching and designing their ideas taking inspiration from some artefacts from the Shang Dynasty.

During Remembrance Week in November in our English lessons, the children worked together to create some beautifully emotional and sombre war poems.

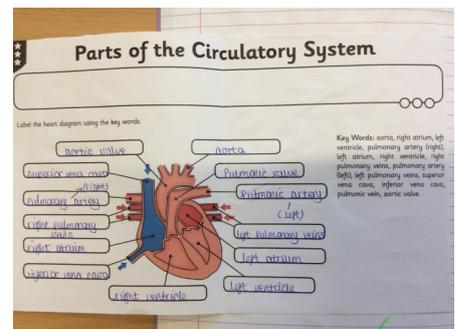
The children are really enjoying their Science unit on forces. They have demonstrated their ability to use key technical vocabulary in their explanations and they are very much looking forward to our trip to the Space Centre in the Spring Term.

Year 6



Year six pupils continue to work hard after a week of having a go at SATs papers in reading and mathematics. The results have enabled pupils to gain a better understanding of how much harder we will all need to work in order to achieve success.

Please feel free to speak to us if you want to know more about how your child performed. Science has been particularly interesting as we have been learning about the circulatory system as well as healthy living and eating. Year 6 staff and pupils wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Notice Board



Lunchtime Arrangements

If you would like to change your child's lunchtime arrangement from January 2022, please inform the school office. School dinners are charged at £11.50 per week. If your child has a packed lunch, children should be having healthy food in their lunch boxes (Please see the article below!).



Healthy Packed Lunches

Part of our school being a Healthy School is to make sure all children eat well, including not just school dinners but also when children bring a packed lunch from home. Please make sure that if your child brings a packed lunch to school that it is not only healthy but also enough to keep them going for the whole school day!

What's in a healthy lunchbox?

"Healthy"

A healthy packed lunch should include



"Unhealthy"

A packed lunch should avoid



Source: Food Standards Agency

School Comms



Please ensure the school has your correct email address and mobile number, as this is how letters and text messages are sent to parents. This is kinder to our environment due to the reduction in paper and also reduces costs. As the school has your email address, you can also download our school app. The app is called 'school gateway' and is free to download. Some of its features are: the ability to amend contact details, send messages to the school office, explain absences, receive messages, make payments, book/ see what your child has eaten for lunch. If you need any help downloading this app, or have any questions, please speak to the office team.

Schoolgateway



Keeping Children Safe Online

All of our children are taught regularly about keeping themselves safe online and they are all able to show their understanding of e-safety by discussing issues with others. All of the children have learned about how it is very important that they are playing games that are appropriate for their age. Look for the PEGI rating symbols, which are similar to the guides for watching films. Games such as **Grand Theft Auto (GTA)** and **Call of Duty** are **NOT suitable for children**; they are intended only for adults. Please help us keep your children safe by monitoring what they play! Your older children may be playing games that should not be played by younger ones. If you have any questions, please ask Miss Newell or your child's class teacher who will be happy to help you.

Suitable for primary school aged children

NOT suitable for primary school aged children



A useful website to check the content of games, films and music for children is

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

Poli:Gen Announces Rushey Mead Primary Winners!!

After a full term of hard work in the garden on a Monday afternoon, Poli:Gen announced the winners of the design a pollinator friendly garden.

All of the children had to think about how they would either make changes in their own garden or design a new garden. They had to draw and colour their design and then write a short piece about what they had decided and how it would encourage pollinators into the garden.

Five lucky winners were chosen and Marc (Poli:Gen Representative) had a very tough job choosing these winners as all of the entrants were extremely good. Well done to all the children in Poli:Gen Gardening Club!



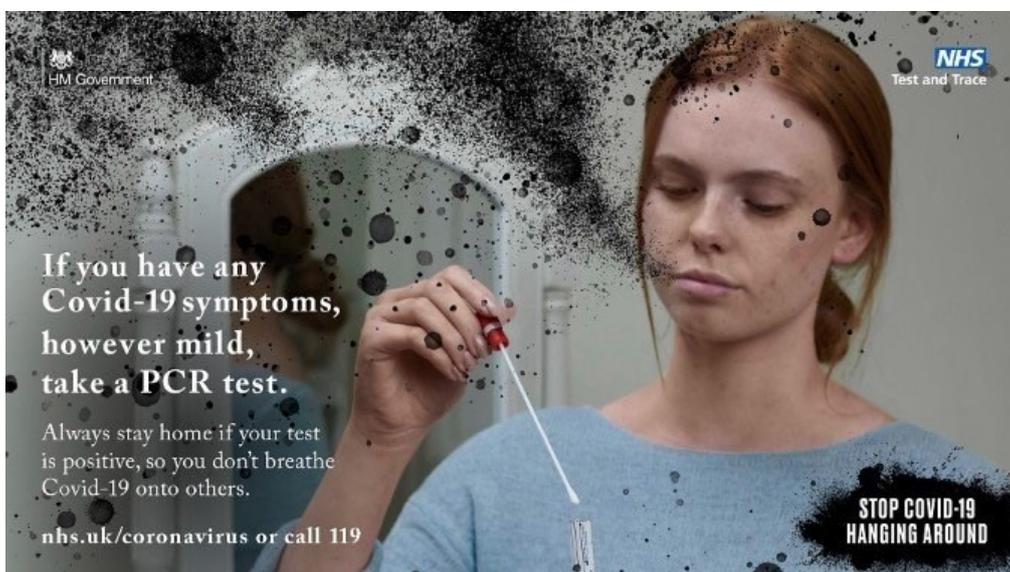
Message from Ivan Browne, Director of Public Health Leicester

Dear Parent / Carer,

We now know that the Omicron variant is the fastest spreading form of coronavirus that we have seen so far. Due to significant concerns about it, the Government is introducing new rules across England. There are confirmed cases of Omicron both in Leicester and the county.

We know that we cannot block this variant completely. But it really is important that we slow it down. This allows us to protect more people with booster vaccinations and it will reduce pressure on the NHS.

Ivan Browne, Director of Public Health Leicester



Do you play a musical instrument?

Leicestershire Music have bands, orchestras & choirs for young people from beginner to advanced level, meeting on a weekly basis.

Experience the fun of making music with others.

Join Us!

'It's what I look forward to each week, I love it!'

Mia, Violin, Age 12



Find out more
by visiting
www.bit.ly/LM-find21



Oracy at Rushey Mead Primary School



Please talk to your children and ask them what oracy means to them? Oracy is the ability to express oneself fluently and grammatically in speech and we want all of our children to be confident speakers and give their opinions. To do this, the teachers skilfully plan talking outcomes in the children's learning journey. As we are a Voice Leicester Oracy Hub School, the children will also be receiving talking homework more frequently and as a school we will be reintroducing the **Oracy Challenge of the Month**. Please support your children with their oracy homework and get involved with the Oracy Challenges at home – it really is great fun for the family!

We have divided oracy skills into four categories:



Cognitive The deliberate application of thought to what you're saying



Linguistic Knowing which words and phrases to use, and using them



Physical Making yourself heard, using your voice and body as an instrument



Social Engaging with the people around you; knowing you have the right to speak

Food Technology returns to Curriculum Enrichment

Every fortnight children in KS1 and KS2 have what is known as Curriculum Enrichment, which allows children in our school an opportunity to part in activities which extends their learning beyond the classroom and incorporate topics which develop the children's curiosity to learn something new and fun. One of these topics is food technology where the children are able to improve their cooking skills, understanding and learning about food and healthy eating using a wide range of basic skills and processes.



Save the Children: Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all the children who wore a Christmas jumper or a Christmas themed outfit last Friday on the 10th December! As a result of your £1 contributions, we have raised a brilliant **£407.03 for Save the Children**. Every single penny helps children around the world get the things they need to see the magic in the world again!



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Covid Plan B Measures

The Government is introducing its Covid Plan B measures in England.

From Friday 10 December, face coverings must be worn in most indoor public venues, including cinemas and theatres. You do not have to wear one when eating, drinking or exercising. From Monday 13 December, you should work from home if you can.

From Wednesday 15 December, to enter a nightclub or large venue you will need to show an NHS Covid Pass showing either proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test.

These measures are to be debated and voted on in parliament. The Government will publish full guidance over the coming days.



You must wear a face covering on public transport and in shops, unless exempt.

Get your skates on!

Jubilee Square Ice Rink is back and open until 3rd January. This year Leicester City Council (LCC) has added some special quiet sessions and several themed ones, including appearances from The Snowman™, Christmas discos, Leicester Tigers and mascot Welford, plus Filbert Fox on Ice.



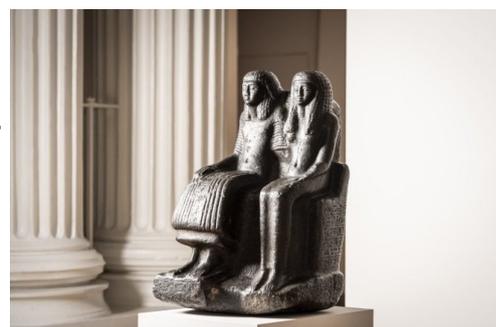
If you're coming into Leicester for shopping, a night out, or just to enjoy our festive lights, we hope you'll find time to have a spin on the ice rink and discover all that the city has to offer this Christmas. Brand new this year is a free and interactive family adventure using augmented reality to bring fictional characters to life in the city centre. You can also visit the snow-covered Christmas grotto in Green Dragon Square.

Find full details and book tickets on our dedicated Leicester City Council [Christmas website](#).

With COVID-19 infection rates still high, and the emergence of the new Omicron variant, we are asking people to [do a quick test](#) before coming to the ice rink or attending any Christmas events. Face coverings must now be worn in shops and on public transport, and should be worn whenever you're in a crowded space.

Winter at museums

Look out for new exhibitions, live performances and events at Leicester's museums this winter. Experience a 10-minute-long soundscape, [Nosferatu Redux](#) by Les Hayden. Take a closer look at the 3,000-year old Egyptian statue at [Gift of the Nile](#). View work by local artists at the [Open 32](#) exhibition. Enjoy [live music, story-telling, theatre, film and family fun](#) and see the special Christmas exhibition [The Snowman™ and The Snowdog](#). Admission to city museums is free: <https://www.leicestermuseums.org/>



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Finally, a reminder that our school re-opens on Wednesday 5th January, with the school gates opening at 8.40am—8.50am. Pick-up time for children at home-time also remains the same:

- F1 (Nursery): 3.30pm
- F2 (Reception): 3.00pm
- KS1 (Years 1 & 2): 3.00pm
- LKS2 (Years 3 & 4): 3.10pm
- UKS2 (Year 5 & 6): 3.30PM



On behalf of everyone at Rushey Mead Primary School, I would like to wish all the families who will be celebrating a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year!