

Rushey Mead Primary School

'Broadening Horizons'

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 4th January

Children back in school

Tuesday 10th January

Curriculum Evening for Years 1&2 +
Years 5&6

Thursday 12th January

Curriculum Evening for EYFS +
Years 3&4

Monday 16th January

Year 6 SATs Parent Maths Work-
shop

Monday 23rd January

Year 6 SATs Parent Maths Work-
shop

Monday 30th January

Year 1 Phonics Screening Parent
Workshop

Monday 6th February

Year 2 SATs Parent Maths Work-
shop

Tuesday 7th February

Nursery Parent Reading Workshop

Online Safety Meeting for Parents

Friday 10th February

Reception Parent Reading Work-
shop

Monday 13th February

Year 2 SATs Parent Reading Work-
shop

Tues 28th February & Wed 1st
March

Parent's Evening

Headteacher's Message

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! But we haven't finished yet! We have our annual Christmas Carol Concert outside on the playground this Wednesday 14th December at 2.30pm with mince pies, hot chocolate and everyone's favourite — samosas! We hope you can all attend as we finish the term with some festive cheer!



We will be sadly saying goodbye to Mr White and wish him all the very best for the future. As a result, we will be welcoming Mrs Mistry as the new class teacher in Olive class.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and help over the last term. It has been wonderful to see so many parents attending the various workshops and events organised by teachers in school including the EYFS Christmas Nativity Performance and KS1 Christmas Concert!

We wish everyone celebrating, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward seeing the children back in school on Wednesday 4th January 2023!



Best Wishes,

Mr. N Odedra.

Promoting and Celebrating Good Attendance and Punctuality

Here at Rushey Mead Primary School we understand the impact good attendance and punctuality has on our children's learning and we believe in rewarding good attendance and punctuality to engage and motivate them.

As a result, we have introduced some new initiatives to support and celebrate attendance and punctuality so that it remains a high profile in school and with our families. There will be an Attendance Trophy handed out to one class across each key stage and celebrated in our celebration assemblies or in class. The class with the highest percentage will then be crowned Attendance Champions for their key stage at the end of each week.

Also, at the end of each term we will be giving every child who has achieved 100% attendance an opportunity to win a prize! Every child who achieves 100% attendance will have their name put into a prize draw to win a £20.00 gift card to spend with their family. This means by the end of this week if your child achieved 100% attendance this term, may come home with a £20.00 gift card!



Promoting and Celebrating Good Attendance and Punctuality

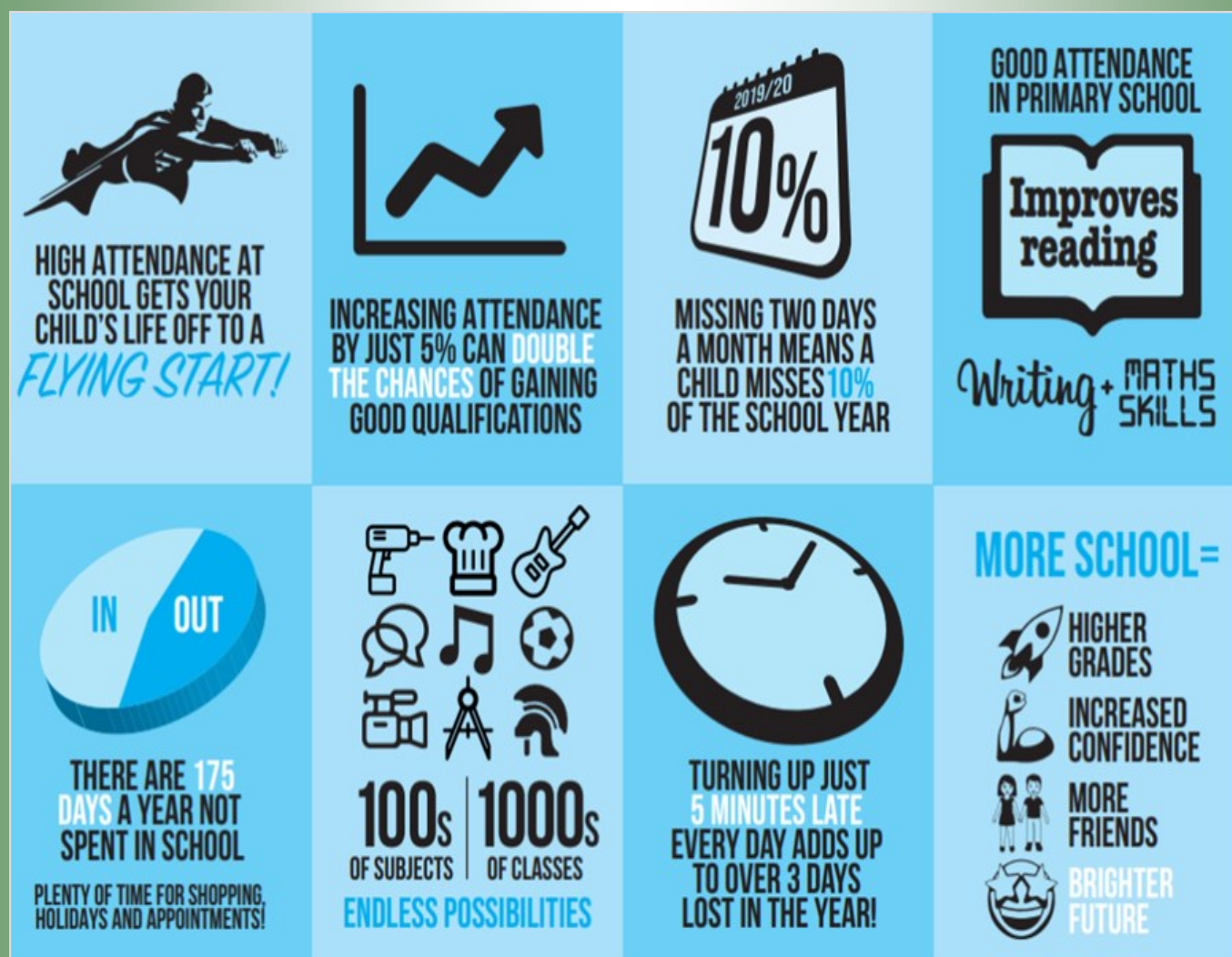
At Rushey Mead Primary School we place great importance on good attendance and punctuality. We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly absent from school and regularly late do not achieve their potential and do fall behind in class. Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time.

Absences should be reported to the school office before 9.15am on the first day of absence. The school monitors attendance on a regular basis, children's attendance that falls below 92% is picked up by the School Attendance Officer and Education Welfare Officer.

It is important for a child to be on time at the beginning of the school day. The school gates open at 8.40am and closes at 8.50am. Lateness can be very disruptive for all children in class. If a child is late and miss's registration, a late mark will be recorded. Obviously, the school will be sympathetic if this is for a good reason. If however a pattern of lateness starts to emerge, parents will be sent a letter and if it does not improve they will be invited to discuss the matter with the Head teacher in order to reach a satisfactory solution

Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. This equates to 19 days or more absence a year. If a child's attendance drops below 90% this could lead to them becoming a safeguarding concern. We would advise parents / carers not to take their child out of school during term time for holidays so as to not disrupt their learning and more often than not children after these extended holidays will have gaps in their learning, which will affect attainment and progress as they move through the school.

If there is no other alternative, permission is required from the head teacher if you want to take your child out of school during term time as this will be recorded as either an authorised or unauthorised absence. If the absence is unauthorised it could result in the authority taking legal action against parents and could result in a fine or court appearance if a holiday is taken during term time without the school's permission.



Rushey Mead's School Vision, Ethos and Culture

Behaviour of children and their attitudes to learning continues to remain something we pride ourselves on as a school. We have high expectations of all children showing high levels of courtesy, enthusiasm, engagement and cooperation in lessons and around school.

In order to achieve success in school, children should demonstrate a positive attitude towards their learning and continuously learn the ability to make good choices and decisions for themselves thus eliminating those rare occasions of poor behaviour around school and in classrooms.

In order to maintain this level of behaviour and positive attitude to learning, the school has implemented a number of new whole school initiatives linked to the school's vision statement, ethos and school culture. This includes the introduction of the new school promises, Rushey Rules and Character Traits. Please remind your child of these initiatives so that we can continue to celebrate their successes in a positive manner.



School Promises

I promise to :

- **a**cquire skills and knowledge for academic success.
- **b**ecome confident in using the English language.
- **c**hallenge myself and engage with the enriched curriculum to become confident and resilient.
- **d**iscover and extend my talents and strengths.
- **e**njoy and celebrate the rich diversity of the school and local community.
- **f**ulfil the lives of others by being an active and caring person.



Our Key Character Traits

Ambitious
Articulate
Resilient
Respectful
Curious
Kind



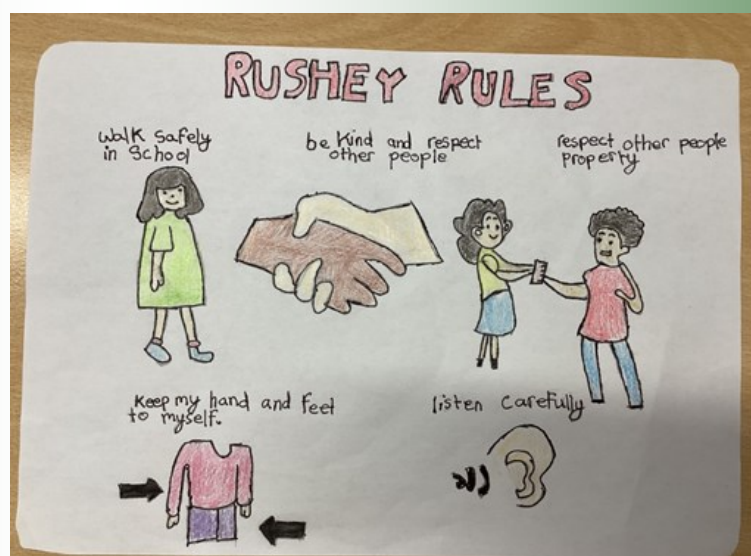
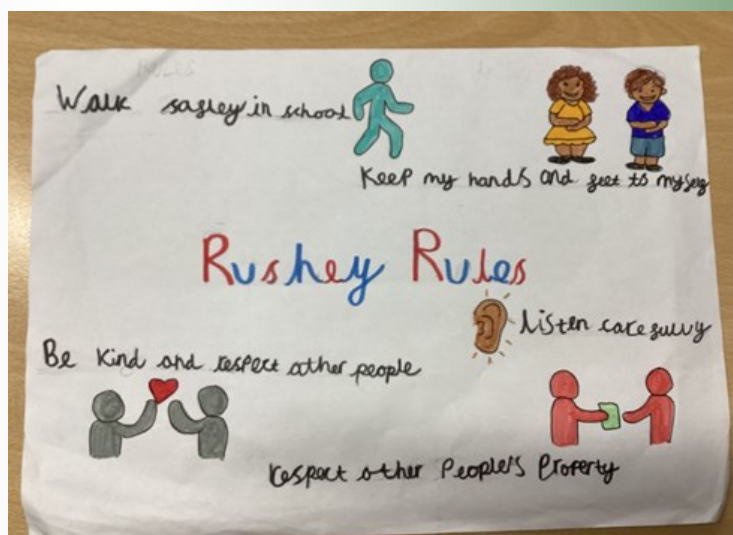
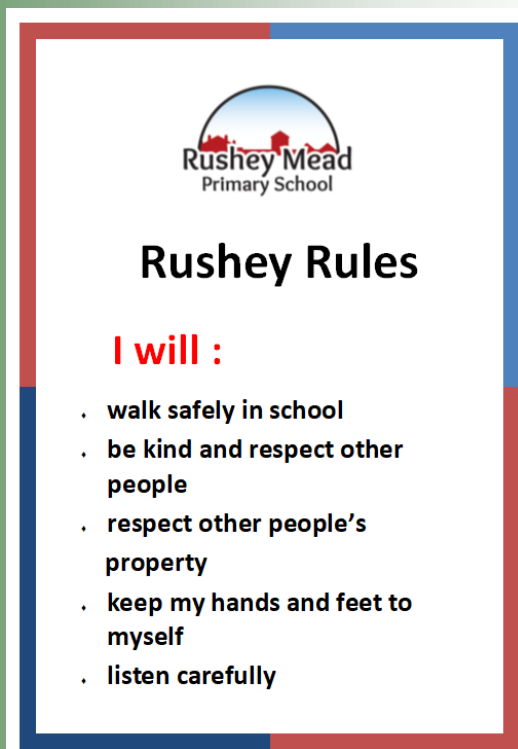
Rushey Rules

I will :

- walk safely in school
- be kind and respect other people
- respect other people's property
- keep my hands and feet to myself
- listen carefully

Rushey Mead's School Vision, Ethos and Culture

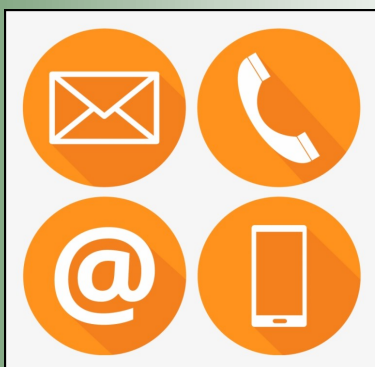
Children in school have been so excited with the introduction of our new Rushey Rules, they have created their own versions of the rules to display around school:





Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

If parents/carers are in receipt of any government benefits, the school strongly encourages you to apply for free school meals for your child. Even if your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y2 and getting universal infant free school meals, this will help to ensure that your child continues to receive free school meals when s/he is in Y3. For every child who is granted a free school meal entitlement, the school receives £1,385 pupil premium income for every year your child is in school. This money is then used to help support your child's learning. For more details on how to apply for free school meals, please click on this link: <https://freeschoolmeals.leicester.gov.uk/> If you need any support in applying for free school meals, please speak to a member of the office team.



Contact Details and Medical Conditions

Please ensure the school office has the correct contact details and are notified about any changes of numbers and addresses, along with any medical conditions. It is important for the school to have the correct information so we can contact parents/ carers should we need to.



Rushey Mead Primary— Winner: 2022 Team Prize for Excellence in Primary Education

Well done to Mr Fojdar for his contribution in working with other schools to achieve a collaborative and supportive approach to improve teaching and learning of primary science across 9 primary schools. This included use of practical science, raising science capital and championing diverse scientific role models.

Please click on the link below to see Rushey Mead's name in lights on the Royal Society of Chemistry website:

<https://www.rsc.org/prizes-funding/prizes/2022-winners/leiprisci-pstt-cluster/#undefined>



KS2 French Curriculum

Bonjour!



I just wanted to say how thrilled I am with how the children are working in French this year. The older children have continued to build on their learning from last year and are enjoying using their colourful knowledge organisers. The Year 3 pupils have made a super start too to acquiring this new language and have been joining in enthusiastically with our stories and rhymes.

It has been fantastic to hear so many of the children practicing their French between lessons at home to help them remember what they have been taught. Many are really enjoying the free app -Duo Lingo, YouTube videos, BBC Schools' website, French activity books and producing their own work in journals. For those who haven't yet given Duo Lingo a try, I would encourage them to do so as it is a great tool to practice French in an engaging and supportive way.



The children have now just begun to have the opportunity to practice their French for a few minutes each day with their own class teachers. Miss Wright was blown away by how much the children knew when she was working with them the other day. I'm looking forward to hearing more news from around the school over the coming weeks and months.

We were delighted to hear that Rushey Mead recently achieved the International Schools Award – the hard work being done by everyone in French, during Curriculum Enrichment and French Week, helped to contribute to this along with other wonderful subject areas and their amazing work throughout the school. It is so wonderful to see the children of Rushey Mead embracing the richness and diversity of the world we live in.

Key topics to focus on:

Year 3: Greetings, Asking and answering questions: What is your name? How are you? Colours and some Christmas vocabulary.

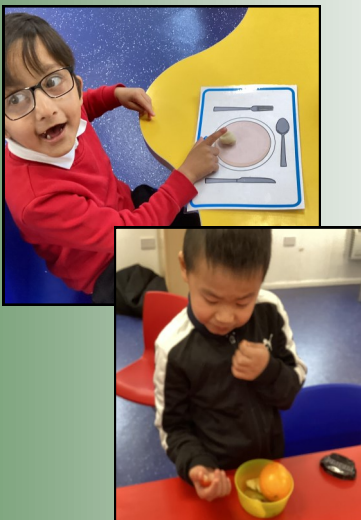
Years 4, 5 and 6: Greetings, Holding a small introductory conversation, Colours, Numbers to 31, Seasons, Clothing, Classroom equipment, Classroom instruction verbs, Days of the Week, Months of the Year and some Christmas vocabulary.

Merci et Joyeux Noël!



DSP — Bonsai Class

This half term the children in Bonsai Class have consolidated their knowledge of counting up to 5 forwards and backwards, sorting 2D shapes by their type and positional language in maths. In English the children have been learning the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. They have really enjoyed learning the different Makaton signs for the different fruit and foods that the caterpillar eats. They have also used their senses to explore the content of the story. Bonsai Class are really looking forward to their trip to see this story come to life through the theatre production at The Curve this Friday.



EYFS — Nursery



The children have settled in really well this term and are getting to grips with nursery routines! We have enjoyed exploring our new environment and making new friends.

For our topic Once Upon a time...we enjoyed learning about the stories of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood. We have now begun to use Talk for Writing to help us retell both stories.

For Maths we been leaning all about number 1 and number 2 and we have also been searching for circles around our school!

For Phonics we have been going on a sound hunt and learning about different environmental sounds, different sounds that our voices can make and what sounds we can make using our body!

EYFS — Reception



What a busy term it's been! The children have been very enthusiastic about learning the story, Three Little Pigs and enjoyed role playing the story as well as creating our own characters. In maths, the children have been learning about matching values up to the number 5 in different ways and more recently learning about shapes and are now able to identify different shapes.

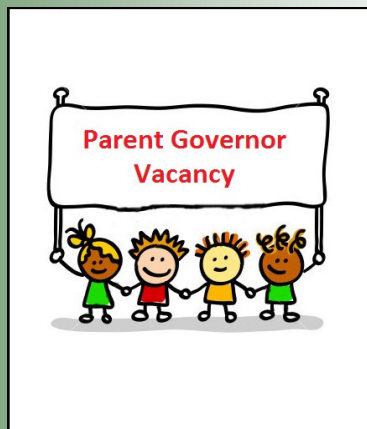
The children have been keen to learn phonics and are really trying to blend sounds together. Some children have also started to read words and recognise their high frequency words – Amazing! The children are growing in confidence and we are always asking the children to talk in full sentence and demonstrating this to the children daily.

During forest school the children have particularly enjoyed the creature scavenger hunt and learning about the outdoors. The Reception children have been practicing their Nativity Christmas production! They all did brilliantly and definitely made everyone proud. Thank you for all your support this term! We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Happy Lunchtimes

In order to further improve the behaviour and attitudes of children at lunchtimes, over the next few weeks we will be introducing Happy Lunchtimes. This will be way of maximising children's engagement during the lunch hour with bespoke activities to emphasise positivity, fairness, high expectations and calm consistency.



Become A Parent Governor!

We are currently looking for new Parent Governors and would be delighted to hear from parents / carers who have an interest in school performance and a desire to contribute to and represent the school community.

You do not need to have any experience or prior knowledge but the confidence to ask questions and a willingness to listen and make informed judgements.

If you are interested, please contact Wendy West, Business Manager or Karen Sheerin, Inclusion Manager / School Governor.

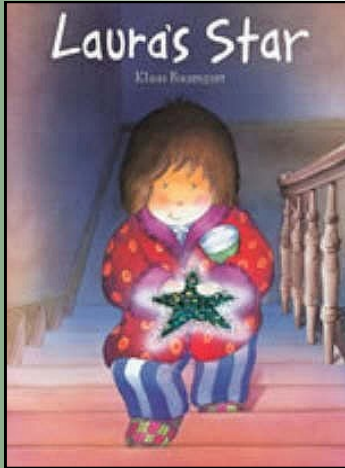


Year One

In Year 1 this term, we have been reading Kipper's Toy Box and Ollie and the wind. The children have really enjoyed learning and innovating the stories. We also learned a poem about the weather and our senses. In Science, we have learnt about materials and their properties. In History, we learnt about Childhood and compared toys from the past to toys today. As part of our learning on toys, we had a wonderful day at the Newarke House Museum in Leicester. The children enjoyed learning about different toys and games from the past. Well done everyone! We also enjoyed practising and performing our carol songs for the parents.



Year Two



It's been a 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 features of a diary entry and the use of emotive words. From here the children used their imagination and created their own diary entry from the main characters point of view. In Religious Education the children have been learning about Christianity and we were able to visit a local church and learnt about how Christians celebrate Christmas. In addition to this, we have had great fun practicing Christmas songs for our carol concert! During Maths the children have become more fluent with their times table and division facts. Throughout all subjects we have been practicing our oracy skills by using sentence stems, talking with our partners and using an appropriate tone of voice. We have noticed the children that are reading at home are making better progress in school so please keep reading with your children and signing the reading record book. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Forest Schools Curriculum



Children in various year groups have been really enjoying Forest Schools this term. They have been building shelters, hunting for bugs and making art from nature. Forest school is an inspiring process, a specialised approach to outdoor learning that aims to develop confidence and self esteem through hands-on learning in woodland environments.

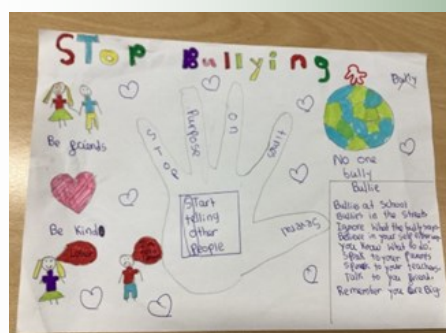
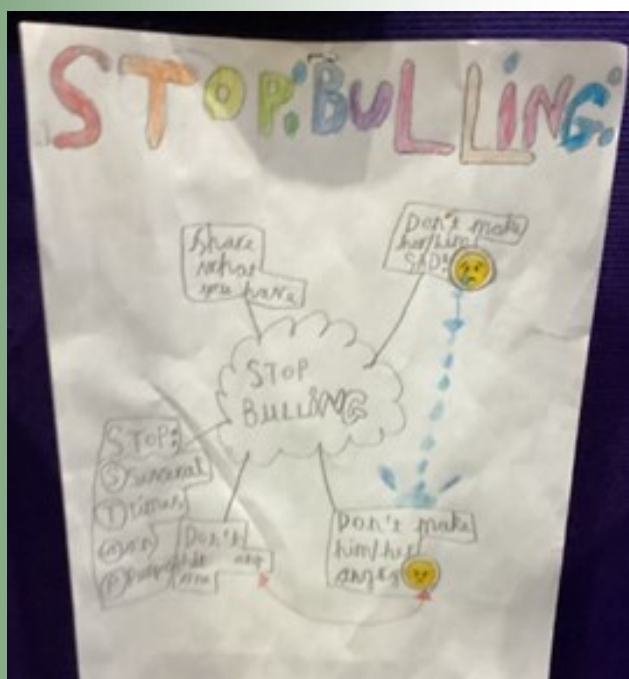


Anti-Bullying Week (14th – 18th November 2022)

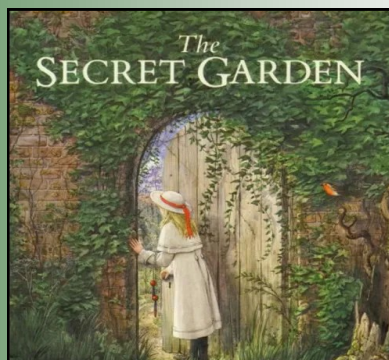
Rushey Mead launched Anti-Bullying Week with an assembly, thinking about this year's theme Reach Out. Everyone thought carefully about what bullying is, how we can spot the signs of bullying and what we do if we are worried about bullying.



We looked at who we might speak to and identified trusted adults. Children then completed work in their classrooms, including some beautiful posters and fabulous class assemblies (full of information, drama and singing!). There was so much work we made a display in the hall to showcase it!



Year Three



What a busy and exciting term Y3 have had! We have worked hard to practice our time-tables and become fluent in the 3's, 4's and 8's, and used them in our learning when multiplying larger numbers. In English we enjoyed learning about the 'Secret Garden' and taking our learning outdoors to get inspiration for our writing. We began a program of Forest School learning, to great enthusiasm from your children. It has been lovely to see them engaging with the natural world, working together as a team and having fun. We also took a trip to the Temple as part of our RE learning and enjoyed learning about the beliefs and practices. Thank you so much for your support with reading and homework, and please continue to help your child. Merry Christmas!

Year Four



We've had a very busy but exciting start to Year 4 and have thoroughly enjoyed our Invasion topic. We explored Anglo-Saxon and Viking life, accommodated for a special Viking visitor and weaved as though we were from 406 BC. We also enjoyed exploring the digestive system and particularly loved our practical experiment where we saw food digest through our body. In our most recent RE learning we explored Buddhism and were lucky enough to host a visit from two Buddhist monks who complimented how beautifully behaved and how inquisitive our children were. In English we studied the Iron Man text, and continued developing our ability to use fronted adverbials and conjunctions effectively. We also had great fun solving lots of complex maths problems and look forward to developing this learning more in Spring. It was brilliant to meet you for Parents' Evening and continue to see the positive impact your home support is having on the children. We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and New Year and cannot wait to continue our learning next term.

Year Five



The Year Five children have had a very busy term; we started the year with our History topic The Shang Dynasty. The children learnt about the hierarchy system, family, religion and customs including sacrifices during that period in China.

We then moved on to Forces in Science. We have investigated Gravity, Air Resistance, Water Resistance, Friction and Mechanisms – which linked well to our Writing Outcome: to write an explanation text.

All three classes have been reading a selection of books for the Our Best Book Project, we have voted for our favourite books and submitted the results to Leicester Libraries who will then announce the favourite book chosen by children across Leicester.

We had an amazing speaker from Leicester Creative Learning who talked to the children about World War 1. They brought artefacts including a gas mask for the children to wear. They were also able to learn a little bit more about what life would have been like for soldiers fighting in the trenches. It was an inspirational and emotional day.

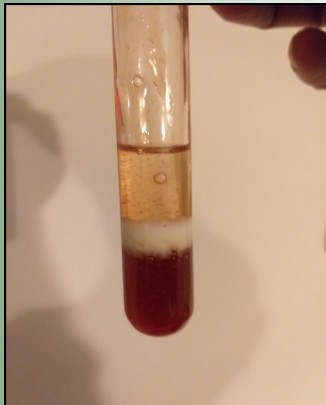


As the days are getting shorter and the children will be heading to and from school in the dark, we have reminded the children that they need to be seen at night. It is pleasing to note how many are wearing bright and reflective clothes or bags. Please reinforce our message and ensure your children can be seen at night.

Next term, we start by looking into Outer Space - we'll be studying the Solar System. We have the exciting trip to the National Space Centre on Tuesday 10th January to look forward to.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing all the children back in January.

Year Six



As ever, Year 6 pupils have to work extremely hard in order to be well prepared for the end of year assessments as well as learning about the wider curriculum subjects. In science, pupils made a representative blood sample using everyday resources (milk, vegetable oil, food colouring) which was part of our circulatory system learning. Pupils also made models and prepared an oracy activity.

In history, pupils have really engaged with our topic called MAAFA ('catastrophe' in Swahili), learning all about the triangular slave trade as well as historical accounts from enslaved individuals. They have learned to think critically about different sources of information and consider its reliability or bias.



As we are nearing the end of our swimming lessons, we are very proud of the progress pupils are making and the increasing levels of confidence in the water. They have worked hard and enjoyed swimming. We hope that families can continue to encourage children to continue swimming after the school lessons end.



PE — Curriculum Enrichment (Reception — Year 4

In Curriculum Enrichment, reception to year 4 have been taking part in their gymnastics block. So far, children have learnt how to safely use the apparatus, learn how to jump and land safely from tall frames and they are now completing the balance, roll and jump section in preparation for a PE performance with music.

Can all parents please ensure that children are not wearing any jewellery or tights that cover feet as gymnastics is done bare foot.

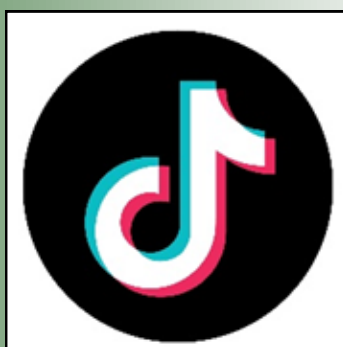
Many Thanks,
Mr Southall.



Online Safety

As we enter the new year, we would like to remind you of the importance to monitor your child's online presence. We would also like to take the opportunity to remind parents and carers that many online platforms have a minimum age restriction of 13+ including TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. If a social network has set an age limit, it means that some if not all content may not be suitable for a younger child. Considering the following questions could help monitor your child's internet usage:

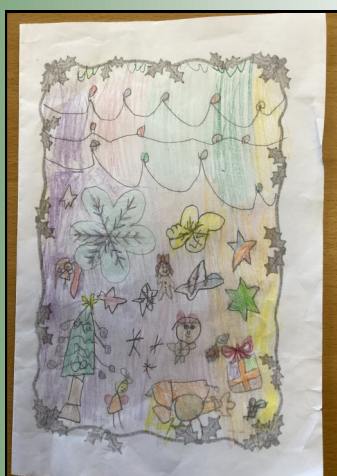
- Is your child spending too much time online?
- Are they talking to strangers online?
- How often and for how long are they using devices?





Young Fundraiser of the Year 2022

A huge well done to M. Sacur for being a finalist at the Leicestershire Community Champions Awards 2022. He was nominated as Young Fundraiser of the Year for anyone under the age of 18 that has raised a significant amount for charity or has used an innovative way to fundraise, raise awareness and inspire the community. We are all very proud of his achievement and being an inspirational member of the school and local community!



Christmas Concert Program Art Winners

Rushey Mead Primary School Council ran a competition to design the front cover of the Christmas Concert Program and chose two children from Key Stage One and Key Stage Two.

We are delighted to announce that Hasti in Ash Class (Year 6) and Maithili in Juniper Class (Year 1) were chosen winners and you can see their lovely art work during the Outdoor Christmas Carol Concert this Wednesday 14th December at 2.30pm.

Black History Month 2022

During October, the children of Rushey Mead celebrated Black History Month! We launched our learning with an assembly and thought about why it is important to learn about Black History. We also agreed that Black History is not just for the month of October, but we want to learn about the histories of different people and cultures all the time!

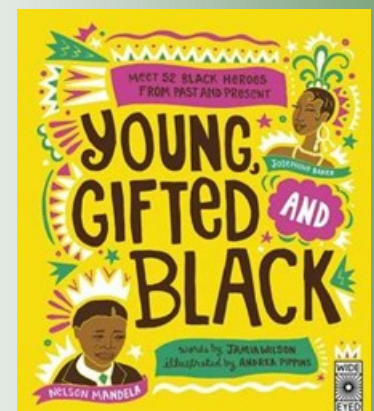
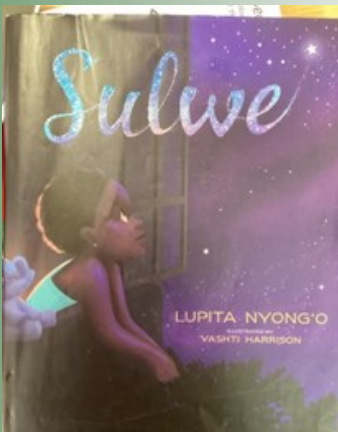
This year's theme was Time for Change: Action not Words and the children shared their understanding that we must take action to ensure Black History is taught, learnt about and all people are treated fairly at all times. It is no use saying we will make change but not taking any action. The children were then set challenges to complete about Black History. These included:

Read a book written by a black author. Challenge: write a review of the book to share with your class.	Listen to music by black artists. Can you find older music as well as more modern music?
Make a poster we could use in school inspired by your learning during Black History Month.	Research someone who changed history who was black.
Create a piece of artwork inspired by black culture.	Read a story where the main character is black. Challenge: write a review of the book to share with your class.

Read a book written by a black author. Challenge: write a review of the book to share with your class.	Find out about someone who has been influential in improving the rights of black people in history.	Listen to music by black artists. Can you find older music as well as more modern music?
Find out more about the Black Lives Matter movement.	Research someone who changed history who was black.	Read a story where the main character is black. Challenge: write a review of the book to share with your class.
Create a piece of artwork inspired by black culture.	Make a poster we could use in school inspired by your learning during Black History Month.	Find out more... why have footballers been 'taking the knee'?

Black History Month 2022

The children at Rushey Mead were really ambitious and lots of children completed their whole grid and earned a certificate in assembly. They also shared books they had found, written by black authors or with black protagonists, with staff and friends. Staff have bought new books or added books to the curriculum as a result of their fabulous discoveries! A few favourites were:

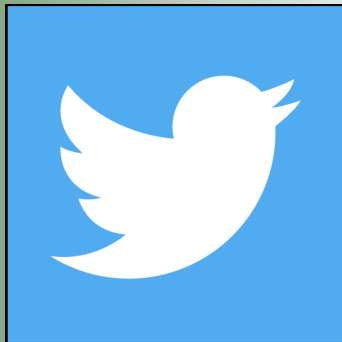


Nut Allergies



A reminder to all parents and carers that we are a Nut-Free school due to some children and staff having allergies. Please help us to protect them by not sending food with nuts in as part of children's packed lunch boxes or as birthday treats. Also, boxes of chocolate like Roses and Quality Street contain nuts so please refrain from sending your child in with these particular chocolates.

Follow us on Twitter



Please follow us on Twitter where we have lots of exciting updates showcasing the activities that the children are taking part in at school including sporting events, assemblies and other areas of the curriculum!

@mead_rushey

Visit the School Website



Parent / carers can visit the school website, which provides valuable information around our school including the school curriculum, statutory information and specific information for our parents and carers.

<https://www.rusheymead-pri.leicester.sch.uk/>

