

RYECROFT REMINDERS

Welcome to 'Ryecroft Reminders', this information sheet will hopefully be sent out every Friday by **Schoolcomms ONLY**, this will provide useful information / reminders for the **forthcoming week and beyond, plus any regular information**. If you are not already set up to receive texts / emails via Schoolcomms, our school / home communications system and would like to, **please inform the office**.

A Warm Welcome

Welcome to all our new pupils and also welcome back to our Years 6, 7 and 8 pupils. We hope you have all had a super summer holiday and are now well rested and raring to go with what we hope will be a great 2017 – 2018.

Inter-House Sporting Competitions

These will be starting over the next few weeks during Thursday's lunch-times. Please encourage your child to sign up on the notice boards, opposite the PE changing rooms to earn points for their house.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 25th September 2017, to take every child's photo. If your child has any siblings at other schools you can bring them in for a sibling's photo starting from 8.30am.

National Poetry Day

Theme – Freedom

A Poet will be visiting Ryecroft on Thursday 28th September 2017. During the day different workshops will be carried out with the children.

Thomas Alleyne's High School (TAHS) KS3 Open Evening

Thomas Alleyne's High School is hosting a KS3 Open Evening for all current year 8 parents and students, on Wednesday 4th October 2017, time TBC.

Ski Trip 2019

The next instalment of £100.00 for this trip is due by Friday 13th October 2017 (date has been changed from the 20th to enable all payments to be processed prior to the half-term, apologies for any inconvenience). Either cash or cheques are acceptable (cheques made payable to Ryecroft Middle School).

Parents Evenings Dates

Year 6 – Tuesday 7th November 2017 – 4.00pm to 7.00pm
Year 8 – Tuesday 14th November 2017 – 4.00pm to 7.00pm
Year 7 – Tuesday 21st November 2017 – 4.00pm to 7.00pm
Year 5 – Tuesday 28th November 2017 – 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Extreme Reading Challenge

Where is the most extreme place you and / or your child has ever read a book?

Whether it is up a tree, on top of a mountain or stood on their head, we want your photo! Pupils were introduced to the challenge at the end of July, and we are running a competition for the most extreme places reading has taken place.

8th September 2017

Obviously, we encourage you to keep safe, but we are really looking forward to seeing who in school has such a passion for reading, that they have to do it anywhere and everywhere!

Photos must be in school by Friday 15th September 2017

Sports Department

Parent Helper Volunteers Required: We are looking for parents who would be able to run an after-school Netball club on Monday nights. All parents would need to be suitably qualified and would also be required to undergo a DBS check. Please contact Miss Starkey, via the school office for more information.

Rugby Coach Required: We are looking for a Rugby Coach/s to train our children during our lunch-time period (12.50pm – 1.50pm), or after school. All applicants would need to be suitably qualified and would also be required to undergo a DBS check. Please contact Miss Starkey, via the school office for more information.

Christian Value

'Peace' is our first value of this academic year. For parents new to our school, we organise our worship through six Christian values. These are the focus for whole school worship and reinforced across the curriculum.

The dictionary defines peace as 'a stress-free' state of security and calmness that comes when there's no fighting or war, everything co-existing in perfect harmony and freedom. In our war-torn world, it seems like there's not nearly enough peace. However, peace can be big and small, seen in entire countries or brief moments.

There are many parts of the bible, which make reference to peace. Christians believe that God wants you to have a life lived to the fullest and that includes, being at peace!

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Psalms 29:11 The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

New Trustee Needed for the Uttoxeter Learning Trust

Want to give something back to help your local community? Have you the financial/audit experience and expertise required to lead the trustees in supporting and challenging the schools in the Uttoxeter Learning Trust? This is like the role of the chair of the finance committee of the school governors, but it covers all of the schools in the ULT multi-academy trust. The ULT Board of Trustees sits above the school Governing Bodies and holds all of the schools to account. Like a school governor, it is a voluntary, unpaid, but very responsible, role. You would be expected to chair the ULT Finance Committee at their half-termly meetings and to report back at the Board of Trustees meetings which are also half-termly. Both start at 5.30pm and last no longer than 2 hours. It's a challenging role, but very rewarding.

If you are interested in the role, please email the ULT Chief Executive, Mike Osborne-Town, on osbornetown@tahs.org.uk.

Attendance

If your child is poorly and unable to come to school, please ring the school office (01889 590394), or email (office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk). **The new rule from Educational Welfare is that you must call the school on each day of absence.** This is not only to ensure the safeguarding of your child, but also to save the time of the office staff ringing home chasing absent children.

This is part of the school's attendance and safeguarding policy. This also ensures that your child does not get an unauthorised absence in the register.

Could you also please ensure that the school have your correct contact details eg: changed address, telephone numbers etc. This information is vital in case of an emergency, or if your child becomes unwell during the school day.

Holiday Update

On the 6th April 2017, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously against the father who had won an earlier legal battle in relation to a fine imposed following a term-time holiday, which was taken without permission. The Magistrates' Court and the High Court had previously decided that the father had no case to answer because his daughter had attended school regularly, in that her attendance was over 90% for the academic year to date, as at the end of the period of unauthorised absence.

The Supreme Court however, disagreed, stating that 'regularly' did not mean 'evenly spaced' or 'sufficiently often' but instead 'in accordance with attendance rules'. A leave of absence may only be granted by the school in exceptional circumstances (Education Regulations 2006).

The most common response to an unauthorised leave of absence is a fixed penalty notice, which would be issued in Staffordshire by the local authority, depending on the local code of conduct, and which has a £60 / £120 limit (per parent / per child), depending on when the fine is paid. If the fine is paid, then no further action is necessary. The Staffordshire Code of Conduct for issuing a penalty notice can be found at: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/welfareservice/Attendance/home.aspx>.

If you would like to discuss your child's school attendance in more detail, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact Details

Have you received either a new home or mobile phone number?
Have you changed your email address?
Have you moved house?
Have your personal circumstances changed?
Has any medical information for your child changed?

It is vital this information is kept up to date so we can contact you in case of an emergency. If you have answered yes to any of the above, could you please inform the school office as soon as possible, so we can update our records.

Uniform / Sports Kit

Our school jumpers (£16.00) and ties (£3.50) are available from our main office.

Please ensure your child attends their PE lesson wearing the correct PE uniform, this includes: white Ryecroft (house colour) top, black shorts / trousers, Ryecroft jumper, suitable trainers (any colour) and white ankle socks and a drink (not fizzy). Also, with the forever changeable weather, please ensure your child brings a waterproof jacket.

You can purchase all of our house sports kit from our supplier Trutex. They can be contacted by:

Telephone: 01782 310111

Online: www.trutexmeir.com

Shop: Trutex (Sportland) Meir, 41 Weston Road, Meir Stoke on Trent, ST3 6AB

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Our house colours are: Arkwright – Blue, Heywood – Green, Sheldon – Red

Online Safety Sites

As children now spend most of their time on the internet / phones, we thought we would inform you of some useful sites to keep your child safe online:

- <http://knowaboutcse.co.uk/parents/> a detailed website for all ages to refer to concerning child sexual exploitation and grooming.
- 'O2' have teamed up with the NSPCC to create a series of free resources to help parents talk to children about online safety. Sign up at <http://nspcc.o2.co.uk>
- The Safer Internet Centre has a useful guide to setting up online accounts at <http://www.saferinternet.or.uk/blog/key-things-remember-when-helping-your-child-set-new-profile>.

Health and Safety Reminders

For health and safety reasons, only watches and one pair of stud earrings may be worn in school.

For future reference, if your child is thinking of having their ears / body pierced, could I please kindly request that this procedure is done over the 6 weeks summer term, to enable sufficient healing prior to returning to school. This is to enable your child to continue to take part in school sporting activities.

Any child who has recently had their ears / body pierced, will be excluded from PE until their piercing have completely healed

School Dinners

Please be reminded that school dinners are £2.15 per day, and cheques are to be made payable to Staffordshire County Council.

Children are able to pre-order their school dinner and sandwiches for the present day and / or the following day, by informing the kitchen staff directly at either breakfast club, or at break-times. This will help the kitchen staff with their food quantities, but also your child will have their preferred choice off the menu.

School Gateway App

Have you downloaded the school gateway app yet?

This is a free app that is linked to Schoolcomms, our school communications system that has many benefits:

- 1 Ryecroft can send you text messages for free via the app. You will receive a notification on your phone.
- 2 You can also reply for free!

So please download the app now and you help save both of us money!

It is simply to set up, all you require is your email address and mobile phone number (must be the same number Ryecroft has on file for your child) to register on the app, it will then send you an access code. If you have any problems logging in, please contact the school office where we will check our records and then hopefully the app will work.

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Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2017

Monday 4th September: Inset day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 5th September – Friday 20th October (school open to pupils)

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October: Half Term

Monday 30th October: Inset day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 31st October – Tuesday 19th December (school open to pupils)

Wednesday 20th December 2017 – Tuesday 2nd January 2018: Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2018

Wednesday 3rd January: Inset day (school closed to pupils)

Thursday 4th January – Friday 16th February: (school open to pupils)

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February: Half Term

Monday 26th February – Thursday 29th March: (school open to pupils)

Friday 30th March – Wednesday 11th April: Easter Holiday

Summer Term 2018

Thursday 12th April & Friday 13th April 2017: Inset day (school closed to pupils)

Monday 16th April – Friday 25th May: (school open to pupils)

Monday 7th May: May Day Holiday (school closed to pupils)

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June: Half Term

Monday 4th June – Friday 20th July: (school open to pupils)

Monday 23rd July – Friday 31st August: Summer Holiday (school closed to pupils)

Thomas Alleyne's High School

Please see the latest news from TAHS under the following link:
<https://tahsroundup.wordpress.com/2017/09/08/week-commencing-4th-september/>