



October 2018

# The Phoenix

## Newsletter for Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

Part of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust

### Issue 1

## A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers

As we enter the final days of the first half term, I am astounded how quickly this time has gone and how much has been achieved. I am pleased to see that the Year 5 pupils have settled well and it has been a delight to walk around the school observing pupils enjoying their studies and making progress. I was particularly proud to see so many pupils taking part in our Open Evening and wanting to contribute to the main presentation, as a result we had more speakers than ever and they all did a fantastic job.

In addition to working hard in the classroom, Year 5 pupils have enjoyed a trip to the Fire Station in Uttoxeter and some Year 7 pupils recently went to the Regent Theatre in Stoke to see Private Peaceful, which I understand was incredibly moving. We all celebrated Harvest with a service at St. Michael's Church and our pupils have been invited to take part in the remembrance service after half term. We will also be contributing to the Rocester window displays and will showcase examples of pupils' artwork and literacy around the themes of WW1 and Peace. Please take some time to have a look if you get a chance.

As you may be aware, we are having an INSET day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November. The staff will be using this time to prepare for our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection, which is due to take place next year. We will receive training from our Christian Distinctiveness Advisor – Alex Wolvers and our local vicar – Reverend Liz Jones.

All classes have been working on a school prayer this term and it has been woven together into a final version, with the help of Year 8 pupils and Miss Alston. We are extremely proud of the work and effort that has gone into our prayer, so we've added it into this newsletter for you to read in its entirety.

As always, we are very interested in your views so that we can improve provision and outcomes for our pupils. For this reason, senior leaders and governors will be completing questionnaires with the help of parents on the school gates in the morning and afternoon, throughout the rest of the autumn term. Please let us know what you, your child and / or your family feel, works well at Ryecroft and also what we could do better, in order to help us improve further.

Have a lovely and well deserved half term break. I look forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Baramuszczak  
Headteacher

### Parents' Consultation Evenings



**Year 6** – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – 4.00pm to 7.00pm  
**Year 8** – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – 4.00pm to 7.00pm  
**Year 7** – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Time TBC  
**Year 5** – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Time TBC

# Uttoxeter Learning Trust CEO Welcome



Welcome 'everyone' to what I am sure is going to be another busy and exciting year. Everyone involved in the Uttoxeter Learning Trust is looking forward to building on the successes of last year and really bringing the Uttoxeter Learning Trust to the centre of the community.

The Uttoxeter Learning Trust has been on an incredible journey from April 2017 when the 3 founding schools started the Multi Academy Trust. We have since grown with 4 more local schools and now consist of 7 strong schools:

Thomas Alleyne's High School, Oldfields Hall Middle School, Windsor Park Middle School, Ryecroft Middle School, Picknalls First School, Hutchinson Memorial First School and All Saints First School

We continue to look for other like-minded locally geographic partners so that we can further develop our educational journey. We have all found that working together for the benefit of all children in and around Uttoxeter has really focused us on designing, delivering and continually evolving the education we offer. We firmly believe in the vision of delivering the best education from the ages of 3-18 in a seamless 3 tier system.

I am honoured to be the acting CEO of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust and the Headteacher at Picknalls First School. I will continue to put my heart and soul, alongside the other Headteachers, into establishing and developing the Uttoxeter Learning Trust outstanding educational offer further.

I look forward to keeping you informed about the continued successes of our Multi Academy Trust. We strive to live up to our motto 'Inspiring Teachers, Inspiring Children.'

**Mrs A Tapp, CEO of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust**



## The Ryecroft Prayer



In our school day there is much to thank you for, but we ask. . .

Guide us through strife and insecurity and when sadness finds us, let your wisdom and confidence be there.

As we use technology, may you help us store our memories, let us keep them forever.

If we use social media, help us to not get lost or lose what is important, let us also follow you.

We are at the beginning, with a long path ahead, let our journey be safe, wherever and however we travel.

And when the path forks, help us choose what is right, when life tests us, help us then.

As we think of others, our family and friends, let our love find them, with the colours of creativity.

Our prayer is for a bright future with doors open to us, let your light guide us, we can count on you.

Remind us that we are only human and mere molecules, let us experiment with all we can be.

When the noise of the world drowns out our voice, let your words reach us, as we read and write.

We have much we know our lives are wonderful, but for others with less, let them too see your light, and feel it fill their bodies.

Help us succeed, as we write our future with hard work and determination. . . today, tomorrow and as long as we live.

Amen

# Parking and Dropping Off & Bikes and Scooters



**We realise that most parents act responsibly most of the time, but we just ask for everyone to be as considerate and act as safely as possible at all times. Could you please inform ALL family / friends who are collecting / dropping off your child/ren of this safety policy. Thank you**

In several previous newsletters, texts and emails, we have expressed our concerns regarding the arrangements for delivering your children to school and for collecting them at the end of the school day. The situation does not appear to have improved - Pupils are being put at risk by parking and manoeuvring in the **staff** car park near to the school entrance.

We really do not want an accident to happen before the message gets across and ask that you please follow these guidelines to minimise the accident risk to children attending Ryecroft.

- The car park is strictly for staff of Ryecroft and Dove, disabled visitors and school buses only.
- Please do not park in, or near the entrance to the staff car park and adhere to the markings on the road at the school entrance. Parents should only be using this car park when collecting their child from an after-school activity.
- Please do not use the staff car park entrance as turning areas. This practice has caused obstruction in the past, particularly for the school buses and poses dangers to pedestrians. (It is often impossible to see a child near your car when reversing, because of both the small stature of the child and blind spots caused by the car's structure).
- Please do not park for longer than is essential.
- Consider sharing the "school run" with other parents, to reduce the number of vehicles used.
- Consider walking to school if it is an acceptable distance as your child needs this experience to be a safer pedestrian. Many children arrive at middle school lacking pedestrian skills and are, therefore, at risk.

## BIKES AND SCOOTERS

We have had several concerned parents informing us that some Ryecroft pupils are riding their bikes and scooters dangerously, both to and from school and on the school grounds. Please make sure your child follows these road safety guidelines to minimise the accident risk to all children attending Ryecroft.

- Please ensure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet.
- Please ask your child **NOT** to ride their bike or scooter on the carpark and to be considerate to others while riding it.
- Make sure your child stays safe and not to curb hop in front of other road users. It is very dangerous for both your child and road users.



## P E Lessons – Autumn Term – September to December 2018

**Year 5** - After half term Year 5 pupils will be studying DANCE and FOOTBALL in their P E lessons. It is compulsory that ALL pupils wear shin pads when taking part in football for us to be able to deliver it within school.

**Year 6** - After half term Year 6 pupils will be studying GYM and HOCKEY in their P E lessons. It is compulsory that ALL pupils wear **shin pads and a gum shield** when taking part in hockey, for us to be able to deliver it within school.



**Year 7** - After half term Year 7 will be studying DANCE and FOOTBALL in their P E lessons. It is compulsory that ALL pupils wear **shin pads** when taking part in football for us to be able to deliver it within school.



**Year 8** - After half term Year 8 will be studying VOLLEYBALL and FOOTBALL in their P E lessons. It is compulsory that ALL pupils wear **shin pads** when taking part in football for us to be able to deliver it within school.

## Our School Vision

Embracing a culture where no child is left behind and every child achieves their potential, we value and respect all of the children that God has put into our care, ensuring Ryecroft is a safe, happy and inspiring place to be.

Ryecroft enriches the lives of our children beyond the classroom, through a range of social, emotional, physical and spiritual experiences so they develop into mature and responsible adults and experience life in all its fullness.

The School works with the Church, local and global communities, to find opportunities to work together, serve one another and support those in need, demonstrating the Christian values of trust, humility and perseverance.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Please find attached a list of important dates and events for your diary  
(some the events are subject to change)*



### NOVEMBER 2018

<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	First day back for staff and pupils
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Year 6</b> Parents' Consultation Evening – Letter / form sent out 16 <sup>th</sup> October
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Years 7 &amp; 8</b> WorldSkills UK LIVE visit at the NEC in Birmingham
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Year 8</b> Parents' Consultation Evening – Letter / form sent out Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Year 8</b> Parents' Consultation Evening – Letter / form sent out Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Years 7 &amp; 8</b> Ski Visit Parents' Information Evening with Equity at 5.30pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Year 8</b> Noughts & Crosses Theatre visit – <b>Payment due date</b>

### DECEMBER 2018

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 7</b> Parents' Consultation Evening – More information to follow
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 5 &amp; 6</b> Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford visit to see Rock n Roll Dick Whittington
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 5</b> Parents' Consultation Evening – More information to follow
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner – More information to follow
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 5</b> Flueze Vaccination (Nasal)
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Church Service at St Michaels C of E Church, Rocester at 10.00am
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>

### JANUARY 2019

<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</b>
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	First day back for staff and pupils
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Year 6</b> Chasewater Residential Visit - <b>£60.00 instalment due</b>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Year 7</b> Standon Bowers Residential Visit - <b>£65.00 instalment due</b>

**SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR CHILDREN ON  
TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

