

Being the best we can be...

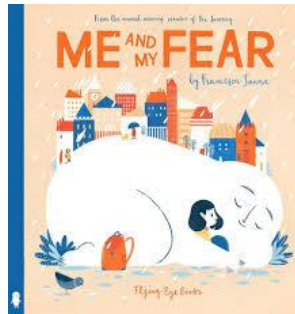


As a teacher and head teacher, I always think about 'being the best we can be' and what this looks like? Does it mean BEING the best? No. Does it mean that we are better than someone else? No. What it means is that, individually, we work to the best of our own ability and use the support and guidance of others, whether this be our friends or teachers, to challenge us to work hard and show what we can do. We sometimes need that support to help us see our potential. That is why we are always striving for the best for our pupils, to help them prosper

and flourish in all that they do - even if, to them, things seem hard at times. We aim to foster an attitude of resilience and self-belief to help them achieve whatever they put their mind to. It has been great to see how we are back into the routines of school and recording some amazing work in our books. With children striving for success across all subjects and curriculum areas.

It has also been pleasing to see our after-school clubs commence with a great range of activities on offer from football to chess, dance to arts and crafts! We truly believe that if we can find one thing a child is good at and loves, then we can harness this and help them to become successful in all areas; building children's confidence and self-esteem is vital in helping them to achieve their goals - both long and short term, both in and out of school.

During our celebration assemblies this week, I delivered the message about overcoming our fears and helping one another to do so - without support and collaboration, our fears can sometimes stop us from being the best we can be. The children could explain how to share a fear to shrink it and help us feel more confident and brave, just like the character in the book we shared: 'Me and My Fear'. We also 'filled' a balloon with our fears and helped it to shrink by sharing our fears with others and being brave enough to ask for help when needed.



Around the school and in classes, the teachers and school staff continue to show their commitment and dedication to the children being the best they can be and I am extremely grateful to have such a tremendous team here at Ryedene, alongside hard-working children and supportive families. I am one very proud Headteacher!

Mr Toomer

A successful start!

Our new Reception children have had a fantastic start! They have been busy making new friends, learning to work together and developing their listening and attention skills. The children have loved using LEGO, working together to build imaginative creations while developing their fine motor skills and problem-solving. They have also been practising recognising their names and enjoying lots of hands-on activities to strengthen the fine motor skills needed for early writing. What a great start - well done, Reception!



Ryedene Primary and Nursery School

'Growing together to succeed'



Head's Newsletter
11th September 2026

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 16th September

1:45 Year 1 DT Afternoon (1x adult invited to attend per child, no siblings, buggies or carriers - thank-you)

Friday 18th September

Yr 5 and 6 7-a-side football and netball team International Peace Tournament

Monday 21st September

RECEPTION AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS COMMENCE

Monday 21st September

8:45 - 9:15 Reception and Year 5 'come and read' parent/carer sessions in classes

Monday 21st September

Reception Owl and Raptor Centre visit for 'Owl Babies' topic in school

Tuesday 22nd September

8:45 - 9:15 Reception and Year 1 'come and read' parent/carer sessions in classes

Wednesday 23rd September

8:45 - 9:15 Year 2 and Year 3 'come and read' parent/carer sessions in classes

Thursday 24th September

8:45 - 9:15 Nursery (am) and Year 4 'come and read' parent/carer sessions in classes

Thursday 24th September

2:30 Nursery (pm) 'come and read' parent/carer sessions in classes

Friday 25th September

Lennox Childhood Cancer Charity fundraising 'non-uniform day' children to wear yellow or gold (£1 donation)

Friday 25th September

2:30 Yr 6, Chestnut Class Assembly to parents/carers in Main Hall (x2 adults invited to attend per child)



Ryedene's Stars of the Week...

Teachers have been given the VERY difficult task of selecting / nominating pupils to receive the 'star of the week' trophy and certificate in the Celebration Assembly. I know that teachers have found this an almost impossible task as all the children have settled so well back into school routines and are really impressing them. Here, you will see some of our first winners of 2026-2027 looking suitably impressed and happy to have received their trophy and certificate. I have no doubt that many more children will impress their teachers and me during the course of the year and take that trophy home to keep and show off! Keep up the hard work, Ryedene



Ryedene Role Models

At Ryedene, we follow our Golden Rules and School Values to be the best version of ourselves. We aim to ensure we are preparing our children for life in the wider world as they grow and embark on their educational journey and beyond into the world of work and adulthood. The children are praised and rewarded when they are 'caught' being kind, following the Golden Rules and/or displaying the values we prioritise as a school. Below is a reminder of what our children aspire to follow and these can be found around the school as reminders for us all. Kind and considerate children become kind and considerate adults and this is what we are aiming for...

Honesty
Excellence
Aspiration
Respect
Responsibility
Determination

Ryedene Primary School and Nursery
'Growing together to succeed'

Our Golden Rules...

- ✓ Be gentle; use kind hands and feet.
- ✓ Be kind and helpful.
- ✓ Work hard and strive to achieve your best.
- ✓ Look after property.
- ✓ Always listen to others when they are speaking.
- ✓ Be honest and truthful.



Role Model Uniforms!



We are so proud of our wonderful children and the smart school uniform they wear. Their appearance reflects care, respect and a strong sense of belonging to Ryedene, helping to create the positive impression they make each day. This shared presentation is something to celebrate. Looking smart is about more than appearance alone; it shows pride in being part of the school community and all working hard together. It is lovely to see the children uphold such a positive standard year-on-year.



Year 6 also look great in their new ties. This simple update gives the year group a strong sense of identity and helps them stand out as pupils who can be admired for their smart and confident presentation. It is wonderful to see them looking so polished as they continue to represent the school with pride and support their role as older pupils who set a positive example for the rest of the school.

The PE uniform has also been impressive, with lovely, smart clothing being worn in each lesson across each of the year groups. It is encouraging to see that high standards are being shown not only in the classroom, but across all aspects of school life.

Wearing the correct, smart uniform in school helps build a culture of readiness, pride and respect. When pupils look smart in their uniform and feel confident, it strengthens the shared sense of unity

that makes Ryedene such a strong school community.

Can you help?

For many of our reward times in school, our children spend time on Scooters. This could be for excellent behaviour and attitude in class, as part of Mr Pearson's 'consistent good behaviour' party or with adults at the end of the day. We had plenty of scooters donated last time we asked (a huge thank-you for that!) but we are now asking for donations of any helmets for scooters or bikes you may have or your children have grown out of that we could use in school. If you are able to help, please drop these into the office or directly to Mr Pearson if you see him on the gate. Thanks in advance!



2027 School Starter open days...

NEW SCHOOL STARTERS

We will be holding School Tours for interested parents / carers of our potential September 2027 Reception Intake on the following dates...

- Wed 14th October, 10:00am
- Thu 22nd October, 10:00am
- Tue 10th November, 10:00am
- Mon 16th November, 10:00am
- Fri 27th November, 10:00am

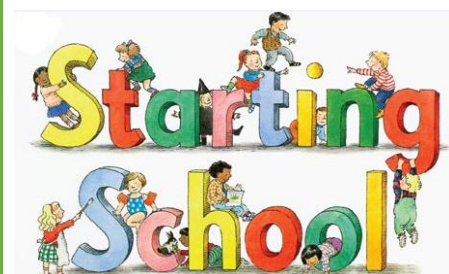
Each tour will give you a chance to meet the Head of School, Mr Toomer as well as seeing Reception Classes and the school site.

If you (or someone you know) would like to book onto a tour, please contact the School Office on 01268 559291 or e-mail admin@ryedene.essex.sch.uk, including the following information:

- Your Name
- Your Child's Name
- Your Child's Date of Birth
- A Contact Telephone Number
- Preferred Date and Time

We would politely ask that no children are brought to the tours so that you can fully concentrate on all the information given to you on the day. The tour will include visits to the Reception classrooms with lessons taking place.

Families can apply for a 2027 Reception school place from 9th November with applications closing on 15th January 2027. Any applications made after this date are considered 'late'.



What a busy start to the new year...

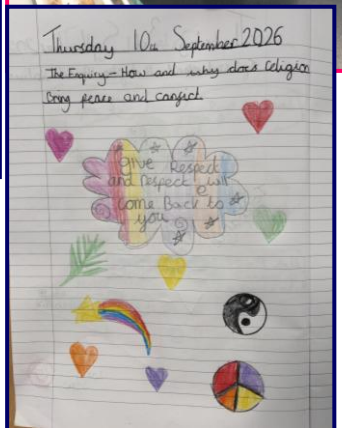
Year 2 had a fun filled afternoon creating silhouette paintings for their new history topic 'The Great Fire of London'. The children learned how to blend colours to create a fire background and then created a silhouette of houses burning for our classroom display. Well done, Year 2!

Larch class enjoyed having Guinea pigs as a classroom pet for the day! The children had lots of fun feeding and stroking Pepper and Biscuit. You could even hear the little noises they make!

First day back in forest club was a success. The children worked really hard to clean the forest up with five bags of rubbish by the end! The children had great fun completing this task before we can move on to more fun things using our cleaner forest space...

Nursery have been building friendships and exploring wonderful new activities. They have all done an amazing job of settling really quickly into their classrooms.

Year 6 have been exploring the countries in North America in Geography using atlases, as well as creating their own 'Golden Rules' for peace.



September 2027 Secondary School Applications

FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF CURRENT YEAR 6 PUPILS...

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opens tomorrow, Saturday 12th September 2026, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027. The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2026. Any applications made after this date will be considered 'late'. Applications can be made online via <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary-school-places>

We would highly advise children and families to visit the secondary school opening evenings to see which one is the most suitable for your child.

Apply for your secondary school place



Out-of-school achievements...



Samuel (Year 5) was awarded numerous swimming certificates recently for all his achievements in his weekly swim lessons. A fantastic achievement, Samuel. Well done!

Our next FUN-draising event...

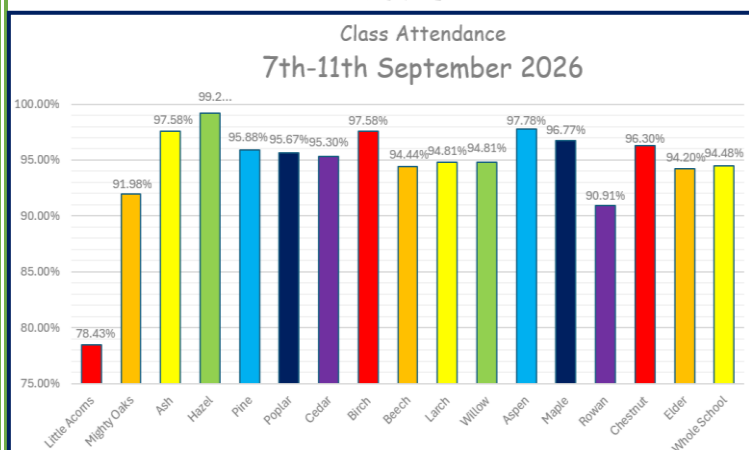


Year 1 Toys Workshop

This term, Year 1 have been travelling back in time as part of their History topic, Toys! The children had lots of fun during their toys workshop, where they all played traditional games and explored a wonderful selection of old and new toys. They enjoyed comparing toys from different times and even had the chance to become toys themselves through some fantastic role-play! It was a fun-filled day of learning, playing and discovering how toys have changed over the years. Well done, Year 1 historians!



Attendance matters...



What a pleasing start to the new school year! We know that being in school, on time, every day is the key to future success for all children. Therefore, I am proud of our attendance over the course of our first full week back at school. Well done to Hazel (Reception)

and Aspen (Year 4) who achieved the highest average class attendance, this week. We are looking forward to seeing children in school, every day they can as we want them to be confident, successful learners which we know that exceptional attendance plays a huge part in. Keep it up, Ryedene!

