

Welcome Back!



I don't know about you all, but it feels great to be back! We have had a busy summer here at Ryedene ensuring that the school was once again looking fresh, engaging and ready for another year supporting the learning of our amazing children.

I am also hoping that our children and their families all had a lovely restful, fun summer in what turned out to be some beautiful weather! Over the last four days, I have been impressed with how all the children have settled back into school life and the way they have all

approached their time in a new class, with new adults and for some, new children too. I have been particularly impressed with how quickly our new Reception starters have settled here with us and it is testament to our Reception staff who go above and beyond to ensure all of the children who enter their classrooms feel confident and happy enough to leave their mummies, daddies and carers at the door - some, for the first time, ever!

I could not be prouder of our children as I walk around the school during lessons, break and lunch times and see how hardworking, focused and determined they are to succeed in all that they do as well as being kind and caring towards their friends. This is what makes Ryedene such an exceptional school to be a part of; we look for something a child is good at and enjoys and focus on helping them achieve their potential.

It was also a privilege to welcome some very important visitors through our school gates on Tuesday with the visit of the Education Secretary, Lucy Powell MP and her team. This also coincided with ITV News also visiting to document her trip to Ryedene and celebrate all we do here to support our children and their families in line with support from the DfE in the form of the free breakfast club for all, school-based nursery provision and free school meals. All the children were amazing and showed how proud they are of their school and I could not have been any happier to show off our wonderful school and the children's successes.



I have no doubt that every child, whether they have been here for a while in Year 6 or a few days in Reception or Nursery, that they will have a successful year here at Ryedene. Every member of staff is committed to ensuring so! Please remember that we have an open-door policy and that if you have any queries, concerns or issues, then we are happy to deal with them by making an appointment with the relevant member of staff via the school office. Like I always say, a school can only be successful if there is a solid home-school partnership and this is something I feel we do well here. Here is to another wonderful school year! *Mr Toomer*



Ryedene Primary and Nursery School

'Growing together to succeed'



Head's Newsletter 4th September 2026

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 9th September

Year 1 'Toys Through Time' drama / history workshops in school

Thurs 10th & Fri 11th September
YEAR 5 SWIMMING COMMENCES

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/carers 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/carers sessions in classes

Wednesday 23rd September

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

Thursday 24th September

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

Thursday 24th September

2:30

Nursery (pm) 'come and read' parent/carers sessions in classes



Start of year reminders...

At the start of a new school year, things can be busy so just a few reminders to ease us all back into it smoothly...

- Appointments to speak to teachers and senior leaders can be made via the school office, StudyBugs or by emailing admin@ryedene.essex.sch.uk
- Children are not to ride scooters and bikes anywhere on the school grounds
- Children **MUST** be in school on time, every day - gates open at 8:30am daily
- We are a cashless school as much as possible so all monies should be paid via School Money, in advance. All arrears must be cleared as soon as possible
- We run a breakfast and tea time club each day that can be paid for in advance via School Money
- Free Breakfast Club starts at 8:30am and children access this in classes
- Parents are not to enter the school building at the start of the day - children are to walk to their classrooms
- We run a tuck shop at break time for children in Year 1 to Year 6 with each item priced at 50p (children to bring money in on the day).

If there is anything we have missed or you would like answered, please just ask.

Attendance Matters: start of a new year...

A message from Mrs Newton, Ryedene's Attendance Officer...

At Ryedene, attending school every day and on time for all our children is important to us. The children make friends and learn to socialise and enjoy being with their peers. They learn valuable life skills, such as good work ethics and, of course, develop their English and Maths skills. Medical appointments also have an impact on the children's attendance figures. If possible, please could these appointments be made out of school hours. If not, then children can come into school first, get their attendance mark and dinner choice, go to the appointment and return afterwards. We do make allowances for those children who have long term health concerns, who have medical appointments that cannot be changed.

We are continuing our attendance celebrations that the children really enjoyed last year. All children who attend school every day and on time, will celebrate this by having a non-school uniform day. This will happen every half term, on a day that we specify. Parents and carers will be notified in advance. At the end of Term 1, in December, all children who have been in school every day and on time for the whole term will be invited to have popcorn and a film during school time. At the end of Term 2, in March, the children who have been in school every day and on time for 2 terms will take part in a 'crazy golf activity'. This will be in school and during school time. At the end of the year, children with 99-100% will be invited to attend an attendance Celebration Trip. This will be free of charge.

As always, we look forward to working together to ensure children are in school every day and on time in order to make the most of all the wonderful opportunities available to them at Ryedene.

Year 3 are Historians



Year 3 have been busy making their own mummies as part of the Ancient Egyptians topic. We have had great results! Well done, Year 3!



Out-of-school Achievements

Heidi (Yr 4) has been very busy over the summer holidays, achieving two swim certificates and a coding / computing one too! Great work, Heidi!



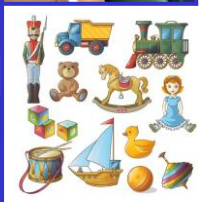
WE'VE DONE Tuck Shop

A reminder thatb we run a daily 'tuck shop' at break times. This is very popular and has a number of healthy options such as fruit strings, winders, baked crisps and cereal bars. All items are 50p each and the children are only allowed a maximum of two items per day. The Tuck Shop is completely optional and is sold on the playground for Year 1 to Year 6 children. If your child would like to purchase tuck, please send them in with their money on the day.



Yr 1 Historians

In History, Year 1 have started their first topic: "The History of Toys". The children have started their learning by playing with and exploring a variety of old traditional toys. This included spinning tops, kings' men, yoyos and puppets. They then discussed how new and old toys are different. A lovely, hands-on exploration!



S.T.O.P Bullying

All of the staff at Ryedene Primary School take all forms of bullying seriously and seek to prevent it from taking place. We aim, as a School, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety, and measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying. To ensure bullying can be prevented, all staff, parents and children should be aware that bullying is a sustained act and not a 'one off' falling out or incident. The children have been learning about this this week and I thought it would be useful for parents to know how we aim to prevent and recognise bullying at Ryedene. We have a robust anti-bullying policy which can be found on our website but I have outlined the key aspects below...



There are three key characteristics of bullying:

1. Bullying is ongoing. It is not the same as a conflict between two individuals or a random unprovoked aggressive act;
2. Bullying is deliberate and often premeditated;
3. Bullying is unequal - it involves a power imbalance (this can result from size, number, higher status or because of having access to limited resources).

A simple way of remembering what bullying is:

**Several
Times
On
Purpose**

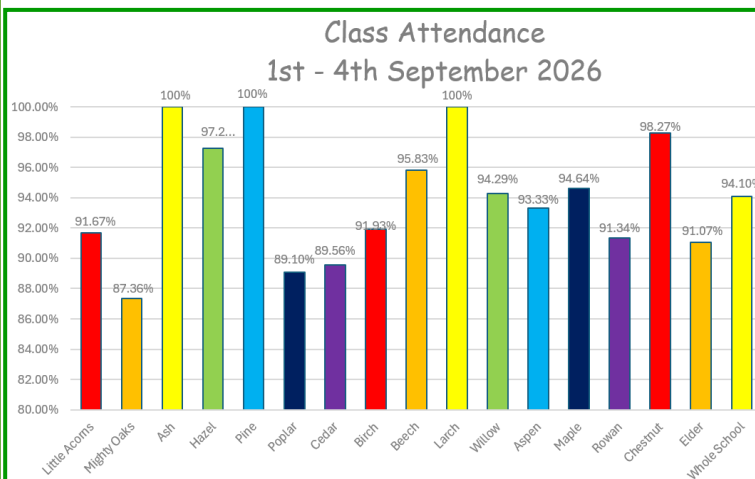
STOP BULLYING
PHYSICAL · VERBAL · SOCIAL · CYBER

Teachers use a range of methods to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. They use circle time, stories etc., within the formal curriculum, to help pupils understand the feelings of bullied children, and to practise the restraint required to avoid lapsing into bullying behaviour. Circle time is used to praise, reward and celebrate the success of all children, and thus to help create a positive atmosphere.

As always, if you feel your child has been deliberately targeted, over a period of time, please speak to a member of school staff.

This week's attendance - a great start!

Well done to all the children for such a positive start to the new school year. It is imperative to be in school every day and on time, if the children are to make the most of all the wonderful opportunities on offer at Ryedene. This is an amazing start with Ash Class (Reception), Pine Class (Year 1) and Larch Class (Year 3) all achieving 100% already! If we can keep this up, I will be one happy Headteacher! Great work, Ryedene!



Allergy Safety

With several Ryedene children have severe nut allergies, please be reminded that no nuts or food items containing nuts are allowed on the school site. This includes snack at break time and/or food in lunch boxes. Please check items before sending into school so that all children are happy and safe at while here. Thanks in advance for your understanding and support regarding this matter.

PLEASE



**NO PEANUTS
OR**

NUT PRODUCTS
Parking around
the local area...

With a busy school drop-off and pick-up time comes the inevitable issues with parking. I would like to take this opportunity to ask parents and carers, once again, to park considerably around the streets surrounding the school. We have had lots of complaints about parking in the past from our neighbours about where adults had parked as well as their attitude towards them when asked to move. We want to prevent this happening as we would like to keep a positive relationship with our local community. Thanks for your understanding regarding this matter.

