



Weekly news: 5th September 2024

WELCOME BACK

A very warm welcome to the start of a new academic year to all our families! It is lovely that we are welcoming so many new children to Rydes Hill this year:

Nursery: Aarit, Blu, Emily-Grace, Kiana, Logan, Lottie, Louis, Max, Maya, Oisín, Olivia, Oscar, Serena and Zachary.

Kindergarten: Ben, Elijah, Eloise, Anna, Emily, Farida, Hugo, India, Leo, Lottie, Lucy, Molly, Rumbi, Sara, Seraya, Steffi and Zion

Upper Transition: Hendrix

Lower Preparatory: Hazel and Serena

Form One: Varenya

We also welcome Miss Lucy Combeer to our Nursery Team and Ms Hannah Clifford (known to many of you from Seren Kids) who will be teaching computing to Lower Prep, Middle Prep and Higher Prep on a Friday, as well as continuing her work in Nursery. Mdme Dominique Hopgood will begin her return from maternity leave, teaching French to Higher Prep and Form One this term. Mrs Jen Smillie will continue to teach French on a Tuesday until Mdme Hopgood returns fully after Christmas. I wish everyone a wonderful, successful and happy year ahead!

SUMMER WORKS

There has been a great deal going on at Rydes Hill over the summer. Form One are now based in the Science Lab, making space for Higher Prep to move to the former Form One classroom at the top of the school. This room has been completely redecorated and looks fantastic. Miss Boyle, Mrs Rowson and Mrs Wood have worked very hard over the summer to get the classrooms moved and ready for the start of term. The previous Higher Prep classroom is now a wonderful second Oaks classroom. We have Oaks Blue (the Oaks classroom from last year) and Oaks Green (in old Higher Prep). There is a lovely video of the new facilities, including a new play space for all of Nursery to enjoy, on our social media pages. Thank you to all the Nursery team for getting the Nursery, old and new, ready for the children.

Aside from the work needed to get the new classrooms ready, all the other spaces in the school have been cleaned and smartened up ready for the start of term. We have had one of our very old boilers replaced over the summer and the other one will be replaced in the coming weeks. Our old boilers had served us well but after 40 years, they had reached the point where we needed something more efficient and more environmentally friendly! Thank you to the admin, housekeeping and site team for all their hard work over the summer.

VAT ON FEES

Parents in Main School will have received a letter from Mrs Maureen Adams, our Chair of Governors, over the summer about VAT on school fees from January 2025. The letter was not sent to Nursery families as VAT will **not** be applied to Nursery fees. Since the announcement, the Governors, Bursar and I have been meeting and planning what this will look like at Rydes Hill and how we can minimise the impact on our families as much as possible. At present, the Government are still consulting about this policy, and so we have a number of different options depending on the outcome of the consultation. Please be reassured that as soon as the Governors make a decision, we will let you know. If you have not yet responded to the consultation and would like to, please email independentschools@hmtreasury.gov.uk We will be holding a Parents' Forum meeting on Friday 15th November at 8am where this topic will be discussed.

NEWS CONTINUES OVERLEAF →

WELCOME EVENING

All families are warmly invited to our Welcome Evening on Friday 13th September. Parents of children in Lower Transition to Form One are invited to go to their child's classroom at 6pm (Kindergarten have had their information evening and we discuss information individually with Nursery parents on taster days). Children attending with their parents are invited into the Friends' Hall where Mrs Norville will supervise them for the duration of the parent meetings. At 6.30pm all families are invited to join us in the dining hall for a bring and share supper. Please bring a dish (savory or sweet) to feed 8-10 people. These will all be put out to share. Please make sure there are no nuts in any dishes and that allergens are clearly labelled. This event is always a wonderful way to start the year, as well as a fantastic opportunity to sample the incredible array of dishes cooked by our families. A ParentMail will be sent out for you to indicate what you will be bringing.

ECO SCHOOL

We are very pleased to announce that Rydes Hill has been awarded Eco Schools Status. From when our very first Eco Prefect Kara suggested trying for the award three years ago, Mrs Wood and her eco team have been working very hard to achieve this award. Thank you to all of them for their input and the positive impact gaining this award has had on our school environment. We will be sent an Eco School flag which we will raise with pride!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We are pleased to announce that the calendars on the school website (one for Nursery, one for Main School) can now be subscribed to via your phone or tablet. This will make sure that you are aware of all dates and, if anything changes, the calendar will update automatically. Please make sure you follow this link:

<https://www.rydeshill.com/calendar/month>

to subscribe to the appropriate calendar. We will not be providing parents with printed copies; these become out of date very quickly, causing confusion, and we are trying to reduce the amount of paper we are using in school.

FIRST AID UPDATE

At our inset day on Tuesday, the whole staff received First Aid training. This is in addition to the paediatric first aid training that all Early Years staff receive. One of the things we learnt is that we should not be putting ice packs on injuries, including head bumps. Instead we should be using a cold compress (wet paper towel or tissue). We will be following this advice moving forward.

GRATITUDE

At the Inset days, the staff were discussing gratitude and how we can encourage the children to recognise the things they are grateful for. To this end, we will be having a section in each Friday assembly where children can tell everyone the things they are grateful for (see box on following page).

DIARY DATES AND WEEKLY AWARDS OVERLEAF →

Diary dates for next week

Tuesday 10th September	9am: Start of term mass for Lower Transition to Form One
Wednesday 11th September	Ballet lessons begin
Thursday 12th September	Swimming lessons begin for Lower and Upper Transition
Friday 13th September	Swimming lessons begin for Lower Preparatory to Form One 6pm: Welcome in classrooms for parents; children to be dropped off in Friends' Hall 6.30pm - 7.30pm: Informal gathering and sharing of food in Dining Hall

Weekly class awards

YEAR	EXCELLENT WORK	EXCELLENT CONDUCT
KG	Hugo for working really hard during our first piece of writing	Farida for settling into class beautifully and showing kindness to everyone
LT	Emma for accurate working in science	Isla for making sure the role play area is well organised
UT	Lyra for speaking about her summer holiday with such enthusiasm and detail in front of the class	Hendrix for settling in to her new class and school so well
LP	Emily for excellent measure in topic maths	Sophie for politeness and exemplary manners
MP	Violet for outstanding work in comprehension	Anna for excellent behaviour in all lessons
HP	Evie for excellent English grammar	Aleesha for her awareness of other children and then helping them if needed
F1	Thea for an excellent start to the term	Varenya for settling in so well

Weekly special awards

Forest school award: Emily (KG) for being a great explorer and leaf/feather identifier

Music award: Fenella (MP) for an excellent start to the term.

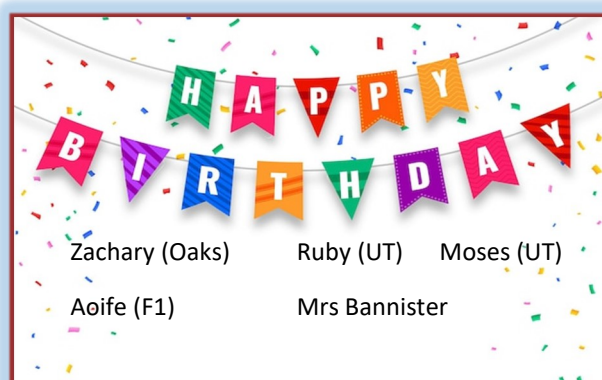
Science award: Evie (HP) for her focused approach to the task

Kindness award: Stanley (LT) for sharing and caring with Isaac and puppets

Special award: The whole of Kindergarten for being so confident when starting school this week

Things we are grateful for this week

1. Mrs Norville is grateful to all the staff for their hard work over the holidays to get the school ready.
2. Lucy is grateful for her Rydes Hill friends.
3. Leah is grateful for Mrs Lappage
4. Moses is grateful for our school.
5. We are all grateful to Mrs Rowson for 20 years service to the school this year.



Kindergarten's first day photos



Kindergarten's first day photos



Back to school playtime



New nursery classroom and play area

