

Headteacher: Mr D Childs

16th October 2020

Dear Parents

I know that I will sound like a broken record when I write this but it really has been a wonderful week at Ryarsh. As I stated in the newsletter this week, we are really proud of the determination, resilience and compassion that our year 6 children have demonstrated this week. Yesterday, many of them took the Kent Test and did their very best and this is all we can ask. They have also demonstrated what wonderful buddies they have been for the youngest children in the school. If you have a child in year 6, I would like you to know how very proud I am of every single one of them. They are developing into really special young adults and, as every week passes, we see a great deal of improvement in all of our children in year 6.

Reading Workshops

We do love to read at Ryarsh. This year, we have completely changed our approach to teaching reading by using a 'novel study approach' for children in years 3-6. Year 2 will begin this shortly. We teach explicit reading skills based around one text for all children. From our point of view, the impact of this has been great as children are really engaging with their texts and really developing their reading comprehension skills.

Reading allows children to improve in all areas of the curriculum as it's a skill that will be used across all subjects. This is why it is so important to make sure that children are reading as much as possible. In school we use tracking systems to see how many children are reading regularly. By regularly, we mean the majority of the week. We would also ask that the reading records are signed by the parents. Our year 6 children are able to record their reading themselves, as part of their preparation for secondary school next year.

To help support reading at home, Mrs McMulkin (our English leader) and Mrs Watts have produced two excellent videos that are aimed at supporting phonics for our younger children and reading comprehension for our older children. To access these videos, please use the links below:

Phonics (years R-2)

<https://www.loom.com/share/7677ddeeaa894f7fb64d170d9cfcf433>

Reading Comprehension (years 2-6)

<https://www.loom.com/share/f6c1aa6b775e4a6598b198b2a6a3c9f2>

You can also find a copy of these videos on the school website.

Covid19 - Safety Update

On Wednesday, we were visited by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for a COVID-19 spot inspection. I would like to share their feedback with you. At the end of the inspection, they had absolutely no recommendations of any improvements that we could make as a school. Their exact wording was: "At Ryarsh, you are clearly making the very best of a bad situation". We were delighted to receive such feedback as we feel that it reflects the approach taken by our entire school community. As a family, we have continued to work together to help provide the safest environment we can for our children. What we have been able to achieve in this first time is a great testament to the children, staff and families of our school. I would like to thank you all for your ongoing efforts in helping to support our Ryarsh community during what has been a challenging few weeks and months for us all.

Media

On Monday, TDH Media visited school to film our virtual tour. We are hopeful that the video will be completed today and will be on the website ready for the early part of next week, if not sooner, so watch this space!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mr Childs and the rest of the team at Ryarsh Primary School