

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

ripleystthomas.com
Ashton Road Lancaster LA1 4RS



01524 64496
admin@ripley.lancs.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards the end of another month, can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support so far this term. I received a 'checking in' phone call from Public Health England this week. The lady I spoke to said that the number of cases in our school in comparison to others in the county continues to be very low. As we are the largest secondary school in the county, this is particularly reassuring. She said it was testament to the measures we have put in as a school, but also to our parents and families who are obviously supporting the measures out in the community as well. Thank you to you all. It is great to see the rate of infection decreasing in our area. With this and the hope of a vaccine, it does feel like there is some light to come. Let's pray for that to continue as we approach the Christmas season.

Uniform

Could I remind parents of our uniform policy – attached. The vast majority of our young people meet our high standards and look very smart. Even during this difficult time, our standards remain high. Please could you support us in checking your children leave smartly dressed and are following the uniform rules, particularly with regards to earrings and makeup. Skirts must not be rolled up and hoodies are not permitted. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Jumpers

As we approach the end of term, we are making plans for our Christmas charities work. We are planning a Christmas jumper / T-Shirt / Tie / Socks day as part of our fundraising and to help bring in some festive cheer. If you have any '**pre-loved**' **Christmas jumpers** which you would be willing to donate, we would gladly receive these. We would like to be able to ensure all feel they can take part.

More details on our Christmas activities and how you can discreetly request a pre-loved jumper to follow.

Please bring any pre-loved jumpers to Ms Atkinson in the Medical Room.

Other pre-loved items

If you have any **winter coats** which no longer fit lying around, please consider donating these to us as well. Pupils spend a lot of time outside and COVID has hit some families hard this year. We'd like to be able to provide warm coats for those in need.

We have given out quite a bit of our **pre-loved uniform** this year. Thank you for your previous donations. If you have any uniform your child has grown out of, please consider passing this on as well.

All donations to Ms Atkinson please.

Believe.....

Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

The Bay Learning Trust. Company Number: 07588464
Registered in England & Wales



If you are in need of any pre-loved items, please contact your child's Progress Leader via Parentline.

Support for families

On the theme of support for families, if you are finding yourself in difficult circumstances, please do let us know. We can make referrals to the food banks directly and there are various charities we can approach to ask for support. Please do make contact with us.

Message for Year 7 Parents

You will have received an order form from The Friends of Ripley St Thomas who have produced a DVD of our Year 7 pupils' first day at school. The deadline for orders is Monday 30 November if you would like to purchase one of these.

Forgotten Equipment

Could I remind parents that we are unable to accept forgotten equipment, lunches or PE kit at the Lodge. This is outlined in our COVID risk assessment and this protocol is in place for a number of reasons: our Lodge is very small and we are unable to accommodate multiple visitors; we are trying to avoid transmission of the virus in school and so do not want lots of forgotten items being brought in and left in the Lodge; we also do not want children from different bubbles mixing when going to retrieve these items.

Please could you support us in this by encouraging your child to check they are organised for the day before they leave. If they do forget their lunch, please don't worry. We will ensure they are able to get some food - they just need to speak to their progress tutor or progress leader about this.

Friends of Ripley St Thomas

This week the Friends had their AGM on Zoom. This group of people do a great job fundraising for the school and supporting us at our school events. In the past we have used the money they have raised for resources such as new minibus and departments often benefit from 'extras' funded by the Friends.

We would love to see this group grow and to welcome new members and new ideas. If you would like to get involved further in supporting our Ripley Family, please send in a Parentline marked for the attention of Mrs Kelly.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Walmsley
Principal