

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR

# YEAR 7

2021/2022

# WELCOME



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Welcome to Ripley! I am delighted to welcome you into the Ripley family and to the beginning of our journey together.

What an exciting time this is for you with so many new experiences and opportunities ahead! Ripley is a wonderful school - a place where you will have the chance to learn new things, to make new friends and to get involved in so many different and new activities. God has given each of you so many gifts and talents and we can't wait to see you develop these and discover new ones as you learn, grow and flourish during your time with us. Take every opportunity, work hard and try your very best - that is the way to get the most from life at Ripley.

We would normally give you this booklet in person at our Year 6 transition evening. We're sad we can't welcome you in person this year, but we hope that this information booklet, along with the videos and information we've put together for you on the website, will be useful for you and will make you feel excited about joining us soon.

One of the important things you can do to help you succeed at Ripley is to read. So, make sure you read lots over the summer. Most importantly, read the book we have given you – ***A long walk to water*** – it's a great story and you will be working on it in your English lessons when you start here. There are also lots of suggestions of books you might like to read on our website.

So, we look forward to meeting you in September, looking smart and proud in your new Ripley uniform and ready for the next chapter in your story!

With best wishes  
**Mrs C. Walmsley**  
Principal



Welcome to Ripley. In recent weeks it has been our pleasure to meet you as we have visited you in your primary schools. We hope you enjoyed finding out more about life at Ripley.

As you are now in your final half term at primary school we want to encourage you to keep working hard but also to begin planning for your move to Ripley. We want to make sure that your transition to Ripley is a smooth one. Whilst many things will be different for you, and you will have many new experiences, please do not worry about these things. We would rather you thought about it as a new chapter with so many new and exciting opportunities.

Remember, we will be here to help you every step of the way, and you will find that you soon feel at home and as if you have always been here.

We look forward to getting to know you and to an exciting year ahead.

**Mrs R. Burr**  
Progress Leader Year 7

**Miss J. Rice**  
Assistant Progress Leader Year 7

A warm welcome from the Chaplaincy team!

As the Chaplain, I am here for you as another friendly face in the Ripley family, to help you settle in and thrive through the exciting years ahead. When times are tough, we are here to walk alongside, support and encourage you. When times are good, we are here to celebrate life and cheer along with you.

As a school rooted in Christian faith, we pray you will be open to coming to know and experience more of God's love for you. We look forward to seeing you explore what it may look like to have life in all its fullness through Jesus and sharing in your adventures at Ripley.

**Michael**  
School Chaplain



# IMPORTANT DATES

## TERM DATES 2021/2022

### Autumn Term 2021

Re-open	Thursday 2 September 2021 (Year 7 & 12 only) Friday 3 September 2021 (Years 8–11)
Staff Training Day	Friday 1 October 2021
Half Term	Monday 25 October 2021 – Wednesday 3 November 2021 (incl.)
Closure after school	Friday 17 December 2021 (early closure – 12.30pm)

### Spring Term 2022

Re-open	Tuesday 4 January 2022
Half Term	Monday 14 February 2022 – Friday 18 February 2022 (incl.)
Closure after school	Friday 1 April 2022

### Summer Term 2022

Re-open	Tuesday 19 April 2022
May Day closure	Monday 2 May 2022
Half Term	Monday 30 May 2022 – Friday 3 June 2022 (incl.)
Closure after school	Friday 22 July 2022 (early closure – 12.30pm)

# ATTENDANCE

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school you must phone school on their first day of their absence before 8.45am to provide a reason for their absence. For a prolonged period of absence, you should telephone the school office every day to update us or provide a clear indication of the expected duration of absence. On their return to school you should provide a written explanation. If no explanation for absence is provided within a week there is a risk it will be unauthorised.

Family holidays should not be arranged in term time. Unavoidable requests for leave of absence during term time should be made well in advance to Mrs Walmsley, Principal.

# TRANSITION 2021

As we have already said, Miss Rice and I have enjoyed meeting you when we have visited your primary school. We are sorry that you cannot spend a day with us at Ripley but we are confident you will soon adjust to life at Ripley once you join us in September.

In the meantime, there is a special page on our website which will help you to feel part of the Ripley family and will give you a better understanding of what life at Ripley is really like. If you are unsure of anything, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing [transition@ripley.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:transition@ripley.lancs.sch.uk).

## TRANSITION WORK CHECKLIST

- Take a tour of Ripley, ably guided by some of our Year 7 pupils
- What to do if... (Frequently asked questions)
- Map of the school (can you find your way from the farm to Geography?)
- Literacy Work – *A long walk to water*
- Numeracy Work

# ORGANISATION

For the first time in their school life your son/daughter will be responsible for organising everything that they need. Good organisation is essential and is the key to being successful.

Please ensure that they:

- Keep a copy of their timetable at home in a prominent place.
- Keep all their school books/equipment together in one safe place.
- Pack their bag the night before with all of the books and equipment that they need for the next day and that you check if for them.

## EVERYDAY ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

Your child **must** bring the following equipment to **every** lesson:

- Journal (provided by school)
- Black or blue pen
- Green pen
- Pencil, ruler, rubber
- Whiteboard and whiteboard pen
- Calculator – Casio Classwiz fx-85GT X
- Exercise books and textbooks required for their lessons each day
- Reading book

## SUBJECT-SPECIFIC ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

- PE kit
- A pair of compasses and a protractor (for Maths lessons)
- Black fine line pen (Technology)

Arriving at lessons without the equipment listed above will result in lost learning time and will be sanctioned with 'clicks'. The school stationery shop stocks all basic equipment, please see your form notice board for further information about opening times.

## OTHER USEFUL EQUIPMENT

- Glue stick
- Highlighter

# HOMEWORK

All of your son/daughter's homework will be set on our virtual learning platform – Firefly, which you will be able to access. Login details will be sent home in the first week of the autumn term. Your son/daughter will also record any homework in their journal. Please check it every evening as this will enable you to support them and to help them manage their time effectively.

Whilst I appreciate that they need a little down time after a busy day at school it is still advantageous if homework is completed on the day it is issued. Please provide a quiet, calm environment in which to complete their work. Take away any distractions such as mobile phones, tablets and televisions.

Encourage your son/daughter to do their best, take an active interest in their work and talk to them about it. If they are unable to complete a piece of work they should go back and speak to their subject teacher.

## SUPPORT FOR HOMEWORK

As a school we seek to take away any barriers to learning. As such, we provide many different opportunities to enable all our pupils to complete homework within school please refer to your form notice board for further information.

## CONTACTING SCHOOL

If you need to pass a message onto your son/daughter please do not contact them on their mobile phone. Mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight in bags from 8.45am–3.05pm. Rather, phone the school office on 01524 64496 and a message will be passed on.

For all other enquiries and non-urgent issues please contact us via Parentline. Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff and they will respond within five working days.

# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

## LITERACY

A good level of literacy is crucial for your child's success in all areas of the curriculum and as your child learns more about the different subject areas across the curriculum, it is important that they can express themselves clearly through what they write and what they say. Also, competent readers will find it easier to acquire and comprehend new knowledge. There are plenty of things that you, as parents, can do to help:

### Reading

Reading should be an enjoyable activity, but some children need a bit of encouragement in discovering the magic of literature. Try buying your child books as presents and take the time to browse the local book shop or library with them. In addition, the BorrowBox app offers a wide range of eBooks and audiobooks that can be downloaded.

It is also helpful to continue reading with your child. As you read, talk with them about what they like and what they think about the book. It might be beneficial to have a shared 20-minute family reading slot during the week, whereby everyone commits to sitting together and reading.

### Writing

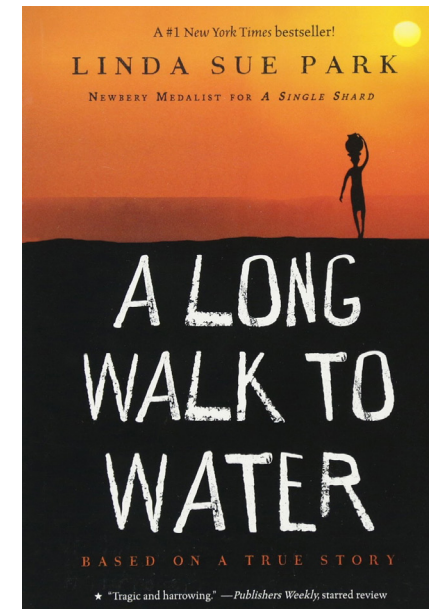
In Year 7, children will be expected to develop a good writing stamina. We want to encourage pupils to recognise that great writing doesn't just happen, but that great writing is planned, carefully crafted and refined through redrafting and editing. Pupils will be shown how to edit their work using a green pen. You can help them to do this at home when they have finished homework activities across all subjects in the curriculum, helping them check for accuracy errors and support them in the refining process.

### Ideas for Summer

During the summer holidays, you can help by encouraging your child to read. The local library will be running a summer reading challenge and anyone who completes the challenge and takes their certificate to their new English teacher will receive a small prize. If you are going on holiday or on a day trip, ask your child to read some tourist information material and then give you a summary of what you might expect of your trip or holiday.

In addition, the English department at Ripley will be providing your child with a summer project on the novel, ***A long walk to water***. Your child will receive a copy of this book which they are to read over the summer holiday. In addition, they must complete various and exciting tasks on the Literacy Menu. To continue to ensure pupils are engaging with literacy over the summer break, a Cubio activity will be available on the school website where they are asked to complete a line of literacy- based activities of their choosing.

Every year we are impressed by the extraordinary effort and quality of work completed by pupils. We look forward to seeing what your child comes up with this year!



# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

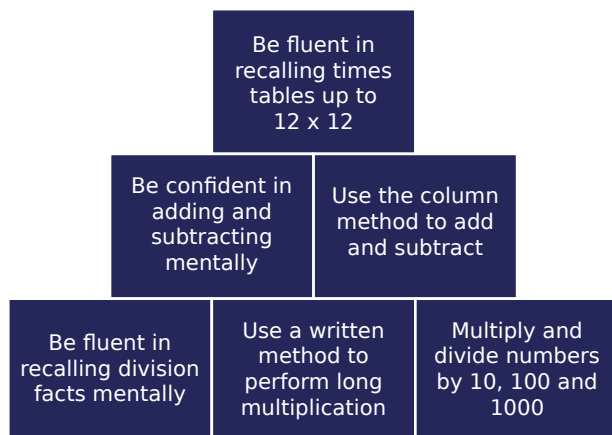
## MATHEMATICS

In addition to the basic equipment, for Maths lessons pupils will be expected to have:

- a protractor
- a scientific calculator (Model: CASIO Classwiz fx-85GT X)
- a pair of compasses

### Building mathematical ideas

Success in mathematics relies on mastering core skills and being fluent in the basics. This enables deeper mathematical thinking and understanding to develop more easily as pupils progress through the school. Pupils should already be able to:



### Maths skills for life

Our aim is to develop the full potential of every pupil in Mathematics, whatever their starting point. We want pupils to have a positive attitude to Mathematics and aspire to experience success and enjoyment in the subject. The Mathematics department uses a wide variety of both classroom-based and on-line activities and resources to motivate, engage and challenge pupils of all abilities.

Teaching focuses on enabling pupils to reason mathematically and develop problem solving skills, over time and in different contexts, to enable pupils to get the most out of day-to-day life experiences as they encounter them. Pupils are also encouraged and stretched to develop more robust skills and knowledge, should they wish to pursue Mathematics beyond GCSE.

### Enjoying mathematics during the summer break

- Download a copy of the 'Mathematics – Stepping-Up to Secondary School Booklet' and complete the activities. Please hand your completed booklet to your class teacher on your first day.
- Log onto the following website (free) – there are lots of weekly tasks to complete to keep you going over the summer. Please ask an adult in your household to sign-up with you at the same time to keep track of all the extra tasks you do. <https://www.numerise.com/secondary-ready/>
- Visit the NRich (maths) website for more challenging activities: <http://nrich.maths.org/11164>

### For Parents and Carers: been a while since you did some maths?

Try these recommended reads and websites to familiarise yourself with the latest classroom thinking:

- Website: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zqhs34j>
- Book: *Maths for mums and dads* by Mike Askew and Rob Eastaway
- Book: *How to do maths so your children can too* by Naomi Sani
- Article: Nurturing Successful Mathematicians: <https://nrich.maths.org/14682>

### Be positive about maths: keep it within your growth mindset

*'Perhaps the single most important thing that parents can do to help their children with Maths is to pass on a positive attitude.'*

Tanya Byron, Clinical Psychologist

## WEBSITE

Find more information about the school at [ripleystthomas.com](http://ripleystthomas.com)

- Make payments to school
- Contact school via Parentline
- Download and read policies
- View the support and teaching staff list
- Link to the Ripley VLE system
- Read the latest news
- View upcoming events
- Find the latest Sports fixtures and results
- Find out about The Sixth Form and Ripley Teaching School Alliance

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“

Ripley St Thomas  
provides an  
outstanding  
education for its  
students. *Ofsted*

”



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