

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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24 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I will be writing to parents fortnightly this year to share updates and information. Copies of past letters can also be found on the school website under News / Letters and Notices.

## Open Evening

Our Open Evening on Thursday last week was very successful. We were blessed with beautiful weather, our grounds looked wonderful and there was a great buzz around the site. I was especially proud of our pupil volunteers who were excellent ambassadors for our school. Thank you to all who helped.

## A Royal Visit

Our RAF Cadets had the privilege of meeting HRH The Duchess of Cambridge on Tuesday this week on her visit to the Lakes. We were fortunate to be allocated places on this visit and many of our cadets enjoyed chatting to the Duchess and seeing her take part in the activities with them. I'm sure this is an experience they will never forget. Please see our website for some of the photos of this event: [Ripley Cadets outdoors with Duchess of Cambridge - Ripley St Thomas](#).

Thank you to our School Staff Instructor Warrant Officer Barney McAlister and to our Contingent Commander Chris Hale for organising this brilliant opportunity.

## Water Leak

It was an eventful week with Tuesday's unavoidable closure. I apologise again for the inconvenience this will have undoubtedly caused you. I'm pleased to report the two leaks we had have been mended and we're nearly back to normal with just some tarmacking to finish off.

## International Day of Peace

Pupils in 8Montgomery asked if we could mark this week's International day of Peace. As school was closed on Tuesday, this took place on Friday instead with a reflection, a prayer and a minute of silence at midday. 8Montgomery wrote a beautiful prayer for us, asking for peace and giving thanks for all we have.

## Face Coverings

Numbers of COVID cases in school appear to be stabilising. Whilst there are still some new positive cases, other children are no longer in the 10 day window. As the numbers are stable rather than decreasing, we will continue with face coverings in corridors and communal areas next week and reassess at the end of next week.

We have given out over 700 face coverings this week. We cannot continue to supply masks on this scale, so **please can you ensure your child brings their own face covering**

*Believe.....*

Principal Mrs C Walmsley  
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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**next week.** Environmentally, reusable face coverings are preferable and these can be purchased cheaply from pound shops or pharmacies. Thank you for your support with this.

**Year 7 Welcome Evening: Thursday 30 September**

We welcome our new Year 7 parents into school for our Parents' Welcome Evening on Thursday next week. Parents of Y7 will receive a letter about this directly.

**INSET day: Friday 1 October**

A reminder that school will be closed for staff training on Friday 1 October.

**Harvest Service: Tuesday 5 October**

We have our Ripley Harvest Service on Tuesday 5 October at 7pm in the Chapel, and are welcoming donations to our local foodbank, The Olive Branch. If able, the school community have been invited to consider bringing items into their forms next week for collection in advance of this service, which you would be most welcome to attend. The Harvest Festival service will be led by Bishop Philip and all members of our school community are warmly invited to attend. There will be refreshments afterwards provided by the Friends.

**Worship**

In worship last week, our school Chaplain, Michael, spoke about resilience, inviting us to consider God as our strength as we start the year. This week the theme of 'Footballers, Faith and Racism' has been unpacked by Mr Quarry, with encouragement for how as a school we can "be devoted to one another in love" (Romans 12:10).

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Walmsley  
Principal