

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Dear parents and carers,

It's hard to believe we have come to the end of another half term already. I hope you will enjoy a well-deserved break with your families.

## Morning Tea

It was a pleasure to have morning tea with our top 5 Ripple earners in each year group last week. Well done to all those who have been awarded our Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for the number of Ripples earned. A reminder that your child's Ripples can be accessed via the Parent Portal on the school website.

## Cadets

Well done to our Ripley Cadet Force RAF section who recently took part in the Royal Air Squadron Trophy competition. They competed against a number of other CCFs in a series of military challenges including drill and uniform, first aid, shooting, RAF knowledge, command tasks and aircraft recognition. They came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and now move on to the nationals and will be competing against some of the top private schools in the country. A fantastic achievement!

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the cadets – no military experience needed! Please get in touch if you are interested in getting involved.

## Attendance

We know attendance is impacted for some who have COVID isolations or other winter sickness bugs, however we are pleased that our attendance overall is looking positive compared to the national average at the moment. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Well done to the following groups who have topped the tables this year so far!

Year groups with the best attendance so far this year:

1. Year 12 - 95%
2. Year 7 - 94.95%
3. Year 8 - 94.75%

Tutor groups with the highest attendance - per year group:

Year 7 - Watkinson  
Year 8 - Brown  
Year 9 - Benfold  
Year 10 - Stuart  
Year 11 - Gornall/Greenacre  
Year 12 - Price/Harding  
Year 13 - Smith

*Believe.....*

### **Thank you from the Olive Branch**

We received a lovely card from the Olive Branch thanking us for our support of their Christmas appeal. With our donations they were able to give out 199 Christmas hampers! Thank you for your generosity.

### **COVID update**

We have received the following information regarding COVID passes which may be of interest to parents.

### **Children aged 12 to 15 years old can now obtain a digital NHS COVID Pass for international travel**

To help support international travel, including school trips, the NHS COVID Pass service for 12 to 15 year olds now includes the option of a digital NHS COVID Pass. The NHS COVID Pass for international travel can be accessed through the NHS website for those aged 12 years and over. For young people aged 13 and over, the NHS App can also be used to access the NHS COVID pass.

Further information on [how to get an NHS COVID Pass](#) is available on the NHS website.

### **Worship update**

In times of collective worship recently, we marked Holocaust Memorial Day by learning from the inspirational story of Sir Nicholas Winton and considering his character traits of "acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly" (drawing reference to a verse in Micah 6:8). We have also been encouraged to draw on God for peace, amidst the challenges of our lives. Michael, our Chaplain, expanded that God's peace in Biblical contexts (from the Hebrew word "shalom") also means soundness, welfare, tranquillity, and wholeness; all things that we hope to experience in life, that we pray for our school and that we wish for all of you this half term.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Walmsley  
Principal