

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR

YEAR 7

2022/2023

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.

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 and, most importantly, read the book we have given you. It will be one of three different books, so don't worry if you were given one which is different from someone else you know. They are all great stories and I hope you enjoy the one you have been given. You will be working on them 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

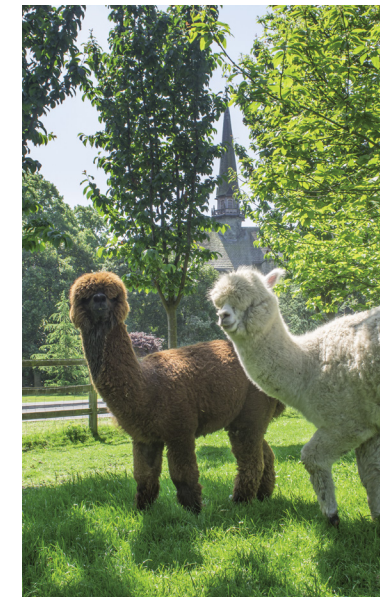
Mrs L. Slinger
Assistant Progress Leader Year 7

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 2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022

Re-open	Friday 2 September 2022 (Year 7 only) Monday 5 September 2022 (Years 8–12) Tuesday 6 September 2022 (Year 13)
Staff Training Day	Friday 7 October 2022
Half Term	Monday 24 October 2022 – Wednesday 2 November 2022 (incl.)
Closure after school	Friday 16 December 2022 (early closure – 12.30pm)

Spring Term 2023

Re-open	Tuesday 3 January 2023
Half Term	Monday 13 February 2023 – Friday 17 February 2023 (incl.)
Closure after school	Friday 31 March 2023

Summer Term 2023

Re-open	Monday 17 April 2023
May Day closure	Monday 1 May 2023
Half Term	Monday 29 May 2023 – Friday 2 June 2023 (incl.)
Open Day	TBC
Closure after school	Friday 21 July 2023 (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 8.30am 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 2022

As we have already said, Mrs Slinger and I have enjoyed meeting you when we have visited your primary school. We are now looking forward to you visiting us at Ripley when you come for your transition day.

There are two transition days: 29 June and 6 July. Your child has been invited to attend one of these dependent upon which primary school they currently attend. However, the structure of these days will be similar. All pupils need to be in school by 8.40am and they should wear their primary school uniform (leavers hoodies are permitted). On arrival, they should make their way to the Chapel. We will be there to greet them and to settle any nerves.

8.40am	Arrival, please go directly to the Chapel
8.40am	Worship

Pupils will attend a variety of lessons. They will need to bring the following items: pen, pencil, rubber and ruler. Trainers will also be required for the P.E. lesson.

9.10am	Lesson 1
10.10am	Break <i>(If your child normally has a snack, please send something with them.)</i>
10.25am	Lesson 2
11.25am	Lesson 3
12.15pm	Early lunch. <i>(A school dinner will cost £2.75 or a packed lunch will be required.)</i>
1.05pm	Lesson 4
2.05pm	Lesson 5: Singing in the Chapel with Mr Gillthorpe
3.05pm	Dismissal

Please ensure that your son/daughter knows how they are getting home. In all the excitement, some inevitably forget and we don't want tears at the end of a fantastic day.

If they are travelling with a sibling, or friend who is already at Ripley please ask that pupil to meet them at the Chapel.

If you are collecting your son/daughter please be aware that you will not be able to access the school site, you will need to arrange where you are meeting them. Please note that there is limited parking near the school, especially at 3.05pm when our school buses are arriving and departing.

Finally, if they are travelling on a school bus please make sure they know which one they need to catch.

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 it 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 opportunities to enable all our pupils to complete homework within school from lunchtime drop in sessions to after school homework club. 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. We expect pupils in Key Stage 3 to be reading for 20 minutes each day – reading with them would be a great way of promoting this.

Writing

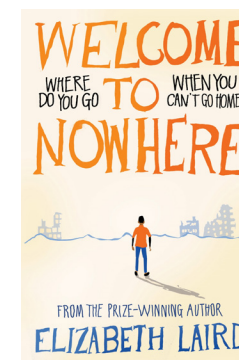
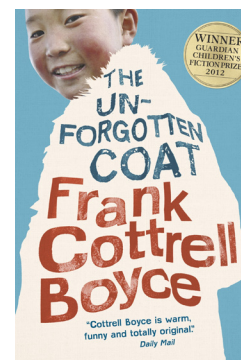
In Year 7, children will be expected to develop a good writing stamina. We want to encourage pupils to recognise that great writing doesn't just happen, but that great writing is planned, carefully crafted and refined through redrafting and editing. Pupils will be shown how to edit their work using a 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 copy of a book which they are to read over the summer holiday and a reading project. There are three different titles this year and we would love your child's feedback and thoughts on the one they get. In their welcome pack, they will also receive a postcard on which to write a short book review of their title. These will be collected in their first week.

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

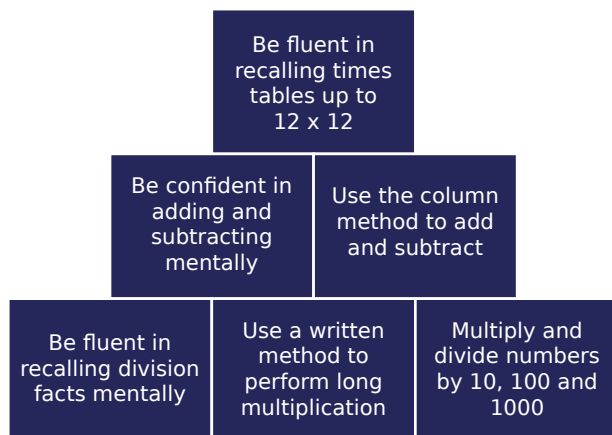
MATHEMATICS

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

- a scientific calculator (Model: CASIO Classwiz fx-85GT X)
- a protractor
- 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 'Maths in the News' activity, complete this over the holidays and bring your poster to your first Mathematics lesson.



Log onto the following website (free trial) – 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/secondary>



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

- 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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