

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to a new academic year at Ratby Primary School! It is great to see the children enjoying their new classrooms and getting involved in activities around the school such as baking for our Year 6 and Year 2 pupils, ukulele lessons for our Year 4 pupils and Year 3 heading out for their Street Detectives walk. Pupils have also been busy electing school council representatives, reading ambassadors, anti-bullying ambassadors and peer stars which are all detailed below in this newsletter.

As ever, thank you to all parents and carers for your unwavering support over this half term, we look forward to seeing you all after the half term break.



Welcome to all our new Foundation Stage children! We are absolutely delighted that they have all settled in so happily!

Most of our learning so far has been based around two of our favourite woodland stories, Owl Babies and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We had to find clues to the Goldilocks story on the playground and we have retold the story with puppets and role play, identifying the main events and talking about the characters.



We have been counting bears and problem solving using different sizes of bears, including sharing the food out so that Daddy Bear had more food than Baby Bear. We found a broken chair in our classroom and we all think we know who did that!

The children have all shown a tremendous interest in learning new things and we are having a lot of fun together!

Year 1

Year 1 have started the term with a BANG! The children have been our real life superheroes, settling into Year 1 and taking on challenges with a fantastic mindset.

We have been incredibly busy focusing on our “Superheroes” topic and participating in Commando Joe’s missions. In particular, we have been discovering information about heroes from the past and present. We have enjoyed looking at real-life superheroes such as doctors and nurses who are so vital in these challenging times. In our Superhero themed day, lots of us came dressed as our favourite superheroes and have enjoyed a day full of superhero tasks!



Year 2 – Street Detectives

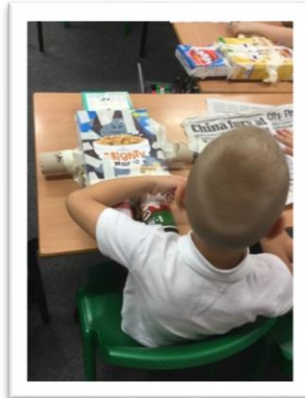
As part of their new topic on ‘Street Detectives’, year 2 have enjoyed learning all about the history of Ratby and they recently went on a village walk to spot local landmarks and historical sights in the community. The children were very interested to learn all about the old butcher’s shop and were surprised to learn that the location of the old Co-op used to be a cinema! The topic has focused on learning about the history of the village of Ratby and we have been looking at how it has changed over time. As you can imagine, the children have been very excited looking at maps and old photos of the village to work out what has changed in the local community.

Year 2 are very much looking forward to learning more about the ‘Street Detectives’ topic and are excited to describe their route to school, including any local features they spot along the way.



Year 3 – Mighty Metals

This term Year 3's topic Mighty Metals was brimming with scientific investigations about forces, magnets, metals, push and pull action, pulleys and levers. Our young scientists have been conducting many experiments that involve measuring forces and deciding on materials that enable objects to travel faster. The Iron Man, the main character from our novel study, is looking for a friend to keep him company. The children have been asked to design a prototype friend that can stop him from being lonely using various household recycled materials. But who will he choose? This is an opportunity to present their companion by discussing how they made their robotic friend for Iron Man, but also providing us with a list of instructions on how he can be operated. A must if he is going to be a lifelong companion!



Year 4 – Ukelele Lessons

Year 4 have started learning the ukulele this term with our very own ukulele teacher! They have learnt the notes and beats of songs such as 'Shotgun' by George Ezra and 'Despacito' by Justin Bieber. Instruments can be very tricky to grasp but the year 4 children have shown persistence and resilience to learning something new. At the end of the sessions, children will be performing songs to the opposite class and be putting on a show, how exciting!



Year 5 – Commando Joe's

Commando Steve from Commando Joe's has been teaching Year 5 about Space.

1. On our first mission, we made a 2D astronaut suit on the floor
2. On our second mission, we made a rocket, that our team could sit on
3. On our third mission, we created a rocket out of a plastic bottle, each class launched 6 rockets. We used white vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, a cork and a launch pad of jenga blocks. It was very exciting!



“Commando Steve is amazing, he's teaching us about space and helping us build character traits. He is helping us to understand the topic and ourselves. He is COMMANDO STEVE!”

By Holly, Lily and Isla
Pluto 5

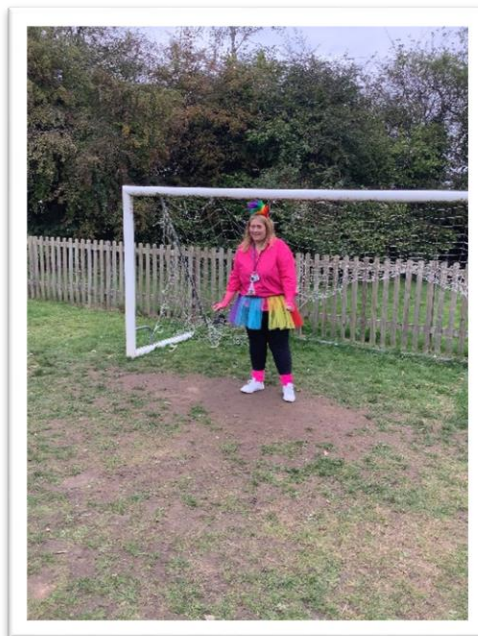
Year 6 – Condoover Hall

Year 6 had a wonderful time at Condoover Hall for their residential week in September. They had a go at climbing, orienteering, an aerial trek, a sensory trail and a silent disco, just to name a few!



Carnival Day!

Pupils and staff certainly had fun on carnival day and we thank you for your support. Thanks to you, we raised £262.04 towards some new equipment for the pupils to use during their lunch breaks and we are so happy that the pupils enjoyed themselves on the day with dancing, a penalty shootout, balloons and wearing their bright clothes!



School Council Representatives

We are delighted to let you know that following a school ballot, the following pupils have been elected to the school council:

Year 2 – Isabel & Eden-Hope

Year 3 - Ezra & Emily

Year 4 - Nancy & Samuel

Year 5 - Joni & Lyla

Year 6 - Evangeline & Isabella

Well done to all of our representatives, we are looking forward to seeing your ideas and input over the academic year. So far, this term we have helped Mrs Jones to review our school rules and the behaviour policy. One of most important jobs this year will be to help Mrs Jones and Mrs Oliver to achieve our Silver Award as a Rights Respecting School with Unicef.

A message from the School Council:



Let us introduce ourselves, we are part of the Ratby School Council, there are ten of us altogether! We have been voted for and chosen by our classes to represent them. In our first meeting, we discussed behaviour expectations with Mrs Jones and helped her to decide on some new behaviour rules, we also decided that this year we wanted to help the School and Ratby, become more environmentally friendly. We want to make sure everyone is recycling and not littering! We think it's important! Think, would you like it if every day, the moment you step outside there was rubbish everywhere? Therefore, we want to make sure that no-one litters, we urge you to recycle. We will be

talking and spreading the message this year promoting recycling and discouraging littering. Watch this space for more information!

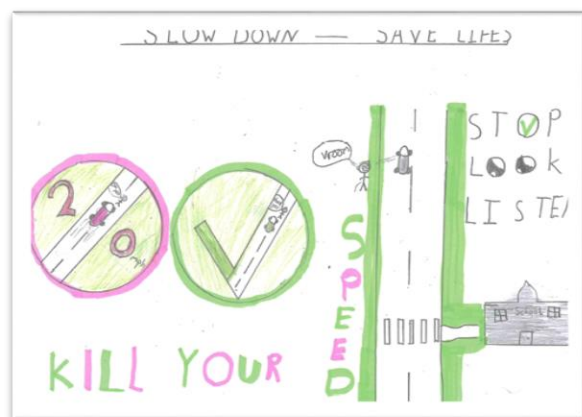
Evangeline and Isabella, Year 6 School Council Representatives.

Road Safety around Ratby Primary School

Our School Council has been collecting opinions from the children about road safety around school. The main issues that our pupils noticed are:

- cars not stopping at the zebra crossing;
- vehicles travelling too fast past school;
- cars parking on double yellow lines or in places that children can't see past;
- drivers using their mobile phones while driving.

Then, we ran a competition to help everyone remember our important message by designing a banner. We had lots of entries for the competition and it was a hard job to pick the best ones to put up in the hall. The winners were:



We are hoping to choose one of the entries to be made into a real banner for the fence outside to school to help everyone to remember how to keep us safe.

Please remember these important message next time you are driving past our school, thank you.

Ratby School Council Class Representatives

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Year 1 – Zienna and Amelia
Year 2 – Chidubem and Morgan
Year 3 - Archie and George
Year 4 - Poppy and Rebecca
Year 5 - Molly and Ava
Year 6 – Lily H and Riah



Our first job will be to help Mrs Jones and Mrs Oliver to organise Anti-Bullying Week in November. This year's theme is 'One Kind Word'. Don't forget your odd socks on Monday 15th November!

Reading Ambassadors

Year 1: Millie & Arlo
Year 2: Gabrielle & Erica
Year 3: Finley & Florence
Year 4: Aubrey & Jessica
Year 5: Eden & Marley
Year 6: Alexis & Emily



Our job will be to promote reading across our school, recommending texts and authors as well as interviewing members of staff about their favourite books. Look out for our first new letter!

School Communications – Arbor App

Thank you to all parents and carers who have downloaded the Arbor app. We hope this will make communication from the school easier to access. If you do not wish to download the app, please make the office aware so we can send paper copies of correspondence home with your child.

Peer Stars

This year's peer stars have been elected and have already been set to work! Mrs Hardy says 'This year's peer stars are a lovely group, they are happy to help in the playground and I am very proud of them!'

Our current peer stars are:

Year 2 – Bethany & Sean
Year 3 – Elsie, Oliver, Joseph & Jacob
Year 4 – Malik, Ellsie, Lola & Neve
Year 5 – Isaac, Holly, Florence & Lola
Year 6 – Jacob, Daisy-May, Jack, Swai, Noah & Sophie



Traffic Issues



We have been contacted by PC Charles from Leicestershire Police with concerns about the conduct of parents, carers and other motorists when children are being dropped off and collected from school. Please do remember to set an example to the children and use the zebra crossing outside of school rather than walking between parked cars and please do not park on, or drive along, the pavements. As you may recall, we have recently provided information about a crossing patrol vacancy but the council has not received any applications for the position. If you do wish to apply for the crossing patrol vacancy, please do contact the office for an application form.

Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge

We are very proud of Mrs Wright, Mrs Brooks, Mrs Watts and Mrs Williamson for completing the Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge to raise funds for Nottingham University Hospitals Charity. Mrs Wright set up the fundraiser after her daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Sophie is a very brave young woman who, following a 9 ½ hour operation to remove the brain tumour, lost her ability to eat, swallow, talk, walk or open her eyes. Thankfully Sophie is doing very well after 7 weeks in hospital, 5 MRI scans, 2 CT scans and 3 brain operations. Mrs Wright, Mrs Brooks, Mrs Watts and Mrs Williamson have so far raised £2,365 for Nottingham University Hospitals Charity and if you would like to make a donation to this fantastic cause, please visit Mrs Wright's Just Giving Page detailed below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Kelly-Wright48>





This year we are delighted to be working with Commando Joes delivering their RESPECT programme across school. The programme is an evidence based government supported programme.

Commando Joes work in partnership with our staff team to help children improve not only academic performance but also to build self-confidence, teamwork, leadership, character and resilience.

When it comes to building character and resilience in schools, there is nobody better trained than Commando Joe's team of highly skilled instructors. Commando Joe employs military veterans from across the armed forces, who have shown bravery and strength of character in some of the most demanding situations. They pick the best and retrain them to go into schools and pass their unique skill set on to the next generation.

Based on the lives of real-life adventurers and explorers, such as Sir Ranulph and Tim Peake, pupils learn about a different hero or heroine over each half term, with practical and mental tasks to complete based on their adventures. The COJO Character for Learning programme will provide pupils with the character tools and values they need to be successful in life such as resilience, determination, empathy, and courage.

This will be achieved through children:

- Accessing coherent, sequential learning
- Being inspired to do their best and have ambition to achieve
- Leading and being led to achieve outcomes
- Engaging in deep thinking to support their decision-making and action(s)
- Experiencing a wide range of relevant and exciting activity

Lessons are supported with "field report" films featuring Commando Joe, developed by a Bafta-winning animation company.

'There is growing evidence showing that developing character traits in young people can help them achieve and develop'.

This half term children in EYFS developed their skills through looking at traditional nursery rhyme characters such as 3 Blind Mice and Humpty Dumpty. In Year 1 children have loved learning about Steve Backshall, whilst Year 5 have learnt the adventures of Tim Peake and Year 6 followed in the footsteps of Ibn Battutua.

Next Half Term:

Y2: Samuel Pepys

Y3: Ed Stafford

Y4: Levison Wood

Y6: Nancy Wake

Please out for updates on our Twitter feed (or that of Commando Steve)of the tasks undertaken by the pupils.

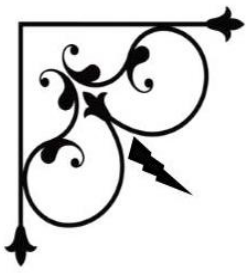


@RatbySchool

@steve_commando

@CommandoJoes





Calling All Wizards

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY AND YOU COULD WIN:

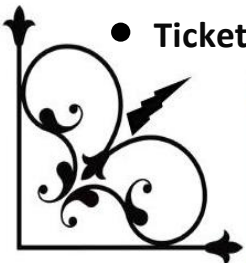


**Harry Potter
& The Cursed Child
Family Theatre Voucher**

&

**Harry Potter
Warner Brothers Studio
Family Tour Ticket**

- Please help boost school fundraising
- Cash prize every week
- Win up to £25,000
- Tickets cost just £1 a week



To play the lottery, go to:
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk
and search for: Ratby



Could your child be entitled to a FREE school meal?

Families of children and young people in full-time education at any school may be entitled to claim free school meals, providing they receive a qualifying benefit.

Do you receive any of these benefits?

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

How do I apply?

Email: freeschoolmeals@leics.gov.uk

Download the Free School Meals Application Form from the [school website](#) or [Leicestershire website](#)

Request an application form on 0116 305 5770

Apply via telephone on 0116 3055770

The postal address is:

School Food Support

Service Room 400

County Hall

Glenfield

Leicestershire

LE3 8RB

Please note you should only apply for Free School Meals if you receive one of the benefits listed above.

Academic Year 2021-2022

Autumn Term

Teacher Days	Monday 23 rd & Tuesday 24 th August 2021
Schools Open	Wednesday 25 th August 2021
August Bank Holiday	Monday 30 th August 2021
Mid-Term Break	Monday 18 th to Friday 22 nd October 2021
Schools Close	Tuesday 21 st December 2021 * Different to Leicestershire proposed holiday pattern
Number of school days:	79 days

Spring Term

Teacher Day	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
Schools Open	Thursday 6 th January 2022
Mid-Term Break	Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th February 2022
Schools Close	Friday 8 th April 2022
Number of school days:	62 days

Summer Term

Schools Open	Monday 25 th April 2022
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2 nd May 2022
Mid-Term Break	Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June 2022
Schools Close	Friday 8 th July 2022
Teacher Day	Monday 11 th July 2022 (Disaggregated)
Teacher Day	Tuesday 12 th July May 2022 (Disaggregated)
Number of school days:	49 days
Total school days for pupils	190

School closes on Friday 15th October for the half term break and will reopen on Monday 25th October 2021.

