



Be kind. Be inspired. Be you.

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope you and your children all had a fabulous holiday and are ready for an action-packed year of excitement and learning at the Federation!

I am writing with a few reminders to hopefully answer some questions you may have as we enjoyed welcoming your wonderful children back to school for either their first day at school or into the next year of their journey at the Rawcliffe Federation of Schools.

Dates for the academic year/Curriculum

Teachers will be in touch via Dojo over the next few days with details about the learning your children will be doing and also which days PE will be held so that you can ensure that your children are prepared and have the correct uniform etc. I will also be writing with dates for the academic year in due course where I hope to give you as much notice as possible for different events. These of course are subject to change but I will do my best to keep these to the advertised dates.

Keeping in touch/Keeping you informed/Contact us

Dates for events are found in the weekly newsletter as well as up-to-date information about what your child/children has/have been doing. These are emailed out every Friday. If you don't receive these, please inform the office and give them your current email address. Class teachers will also add information onto Dojo throughout the school year. There also may be specific letters sent out/emailed out to parents during the year with further information about trips, sporting events or music lessons etc. Alternatively, you can visit the school website on

<https://www.therawcliffeschools.co.uk> .

If you would like to contact or speak to a teacher, then please either message them on Class Dojo or contact the school office to ask them to pass on a message to arrange a meeting. We are more than happy to discuss anything with you but please understand that teachers are teaching during the school day and often have duties during break times therefore they will not always be able to contact you immediately.



Please do not speak to teaching assistants about your child or ask members of staff on the school gates/outside of school to discuss your child as this not the appropriate place to do so. Messages may of course be given to staff but any other, more detailed discussions, should be arranged.

If you would like to contact me, please contact the school office in the first instance and ask to arrange a meeting/call. Again, please be aware that I often have meetings during the school day and also like to be present in classrooms or work with children but I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Uniform

It is expected that all children wear the appropriate uniform and there is a link to the relevant section of the website below:

<https://www.therawcliffeschools.co.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=58> .

Please note that PE may be on different days to Friday and your child's class teacher will inform you via Dojo of the days they will be doing PE. There is also the address of where you can buy branded school uniform if you choose to do so.

Jewellery is NOT permitted to be worn unless it is for a specific reason (medical bracelet, etc.). If children have ears pierced, please ensure that only studded earrings are worn. This is for health and safety reasons. Watches can be worn but we cannot accept responsibility for the loss or damage of these items.

Purple hoodies and federation uniform should also be worn on our Federation days. Normal school uniform is to be worn on the final assembly of the year and at other times.

Educational Visits

I am hoping to write to you with a list of educational visits that we are looking to provide during the school year for children at the Federation. These visits will be linked to the learning and will only be considered if we believe it is to be an enhancement to the children's experience at school. Whenever we organise a visit, we try to keep costs down and often, school will subsidise these trips getting different quotes for expenses such as transport to get the cheapest price possible. We do however, require your help to fund these trips and rely on everyone contributing to these. This is why I am hoping to write to inform you about when the trips will be, to



enable you to budget for the year ahead. I am sure you will understand, we also have to keep to a budget and if we do not receive enough contributions from parents and carers, trips may have to be cancelled.

Sporting events

We have once again bought into the School Sports Partnership. This is a way in which we can participate in a number of different sporting competitions against other schools which we would not be able to offer without this partnership. Children are encouraged to participate in as many as possible and we rely on the good will of parents and carers to provide transportation as well as staff to supervise the children. Thank you in advance for this.

I need to remind all parents, carers and pupils who attend these events that they are representing the federation and therefore we need to respect all those taking part and leading/officiating.

I know that sport is competitive and I am very competitive myself however it is also the first time some children have attended such events and they are often nervous/reluctant to take part at first.

I, and I am sure you as parents and carers, would rather children develop a love of sport whilst also building their confidence rather than turn them against it because they have overheard negative or abusive comments from people who are watching as has happened in the past.

School Gates/Break times/Resources

School gates will be opened at 08:50 in a morning and closed promptly at 09:00. This is so that lessons can begin on time. If children arrive later than this, please take them to the main office. Please note that the small gates to the car park at Rawcliffe School will no longer be opened at the end of the school day.

If children are able to walk home alone/with a sibling, please inform the school office in writing. (Even if this happened last year.) If for any reason arrangements for collection change and someone else is picking up your child, inform the school office and give a password that will be used by the adult.

Children should not bring into school any toys or any balls to play with at break times. We have resources at school that the children can play with. This also avoids any upset if things are lost/broken.



If you are sending children with something to eat at break time, please **ONLY** send a portion of fruit or vegetable sticks. If there is a medical reason why your child needs something else, please inform us at school with the relevant letter from a doctor etc.

Children who bring crisps, fruit-bars/winders/sweets will be asked to leave these in their bags.

We recommend that you send children into school with a NAMED, re-usable water bottle with a lid filled preferably with water and not juice. Do not send children with any bottles with branded fizzy drinks/energy drinks such as Lucozade or Prime as they may be asked to leave these in their bags. We will always be able to provide children with water at school if they forget their bottles.

Children do not need to bring anything into school with them other than a water bottle, their packed lunch and a cap if it is sunny. They will be provided with all resources they require to be able to complete their work.

Having said this, I know some children in Years 3-6 like to bring in pencil cases and pens to help them with their learning. At this moment in time, I will allow this to happen however, this is providing: they are not too large, children understand that they are responsible for their own belongings and school cannot be held responsible if anything is lost/gets broken or goes missing and that they do not cause any disruption to learning within the classroom.

Working Together and supporting the community

I am still relatively new to the federation and have not had the opportunity to see or speak to you all. I hope that you have seen already that I try to be around to say hello at both schools as much as I can and that I will always take time to speak to you when you ask. I will continue to have an open-door policy next year.

My priority will always be to do the best I can for all children in the federation and every decision I make will be with that in mind.

I really value your support of the schools and am grateful that you support your children.

I encourage you to continue this during the school year by: hearing them read regularly, ensuring that they arrive at school punctually/that their attendance is excellent, speaking to your children about their day at school and attending open evenings, workshops and other events held at the schools.



Finally, by communicating with us and supporting us-we really cannot do our job without you!

With this in mind, I am always keen to develop links with the local community and parents. If you are interested in helping the school in any way please get in touch with me. For example, your business may be able to support with some resources, you may be able to come in to discuss your profession with the children, you may be a coach who is qualified to lead a sports club, you may be able to support with trips or someone you work with/for may wish to open up their site for a visit. You may also be an expert in a subject that the school is covering. Please do get in touch.

An example of working with the community was the annual village fair and unfortunately this year, I was unable to help. This was for a number of reasons but I thought I'd explain in case you'd heard otherwise on social media.

Firstly, I was told that the event was not going ahead. When I was told about the date, it was in the summer holidays which meant that I was unable to support this as children and staff would be on holiday.

Another date was suggested in September but unfortunately this is a vital time to establish routines at school and would not give us enough time to be able to create/rehearse anything that would be suitable for such an event.

I have made contact with people regards to next summer and I very much hope that we can again support the event as a federation.

School Values

Finally, I will be sending a voting form out with regards to our school values and ethos. The children voted for their favourites during the last few weeks of last academic year and the top two will be given for you to vote for. Please complete these by the end of the week so that we can start working on these and promoting this within school.

If you know of a company who may be able to provide a couple of signs for us that we can place within the schools, please contact the school office as possible.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and I hope you have found this useful. I look forward to working with you in the weeks, months and years ahead and cannot wait to see your children and hear all about their adventures during the holidays.

Take care,

Mr. Elder.

Rawcliffe Primary School

Ridding Lane, Rawcliffe, DN14 8RG

Telephone (01405) 839282

Email: office@rawcliffeprimary.eriding.net

Rawcliffe Bridge Primary School

Bridge Lane, Rawcliffe, DN14 8NH

Telephone (01405) 839249

Email: office@rbps.eriding.net

