



Rattlesden Cof E Primary Academy
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Dear Parents,

Unbelievably we come to the end of our first half term, which has gone so quickly. It seems a lifetime ago we were arranging our first few days of school opening. We have all remained fit and well, which we are understandably relieved about. This half term has gone so well, but I think everyone is ready for the break and some of the children are a bit tired now. Hearing about other schools with COVID cases does tend to put a subtle underlying stress on us, but we make all efforts to be very upbeat with the children, and keep school life as normal as ever. Having such happy and positive children helps!

We have had lots of new parents looking around for September 2021, especially from out of our catchment area, so our numbers look to remain healthy for next year, as the school goes from strength to strength.

In school, our classes have individually celebrated Harvest Festival and you can view these on the school website under class and/or RE pages.

A few of our previous initiatives have started up again, including gaining the Primary Science Quality Mark status, which is being led by Mrs Oldfield, who is head of Science. Our newly developed meadow study area will all contribute towards this award. Thank you to FORS who have funded this. Miss Mills enjoyed her practical Forest School training, and we will soon be offering more sessions throughout the school.

FORS have been offering support for some great projects that will benefit your children. A new shed, equipped with fresh sports equipment is being purchased, plus new additional books to expand our reading scheme. We will be continuing with the school calendars (so please buy a few!) There will be the traditional competition to design a front cover for the calendar over half term, so please encourage your children to have a go. We put up **all** of the work around the school and love to see the designs. We have a date for the Christmas tree to be delivered, a Santa message is being filmed, and lots of other ideas to raise funds are being discussed. More information to follow!

Our Head boy and Girl(s) have been chosen! This year we have a bit of an unusual situation for the place of Head Girl. As all of the girls were so super with their presentations and this cohort is small, the class teachers decided to let the girls take turns during the year. I think this is a lovely idea, as I would have found it very difficult to choose only one. Well done to Annie, and her Deputies Jessica and Abi who are first to take up the position. William is our head boy and we are hoping to have a deputy in place soon. If you look on YouTube, you will see them leading Collective Worship for

Harvest festival, with a prayer and presentation they wrote. Thank you to Abi for filming the service.

We have really missed the opportunity to hold parents' evenings this term. Although you will have received a written 'report', if you would still like to chat with the class teacher, you can book an appointment via the school office after half term.

It was the biggest surprise ever to receive an amazing bunch of flowers, and beautiful necklace from you yesterday. I was quite overwhelmed! The children were all outside for a quick assembly (in the rain of course!) and I just felt so proud of them and pleased that we are able to offer them the very best start we can at our school. All the staff had an individual clap and yummy cupcake too during the morning. It was a very welcomed gesture from you at the end of the half term, thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Zagni, who has been a TA at the school for the last year, as she will be leaving us at half term. She has dedicated much time to support the school, and we wish her all the best as she moves on.

I hope you all have a great half term together, and look forward to seeing you refreshed soon. We are all excited to start preparing for the best time of the year in primary school, the build up to Christmas!

Best wishes,

Helen Ballam.