



Christmas Newsletter 2020

Newsletter

14/12/2020

Rednal Hill Junior School www.rednalhilljuniors.com

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Introduction



Dear families...

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. I'd like to start this last edition of 2020 by thanking you all for your help and support in what has been an extremely difficult year. Your flexibility and support is always appreciated, but during this time, it has been key to the smooth running of the school. I very much hope that you get to spend time with the ones you love over the festive period and hope that 2021 sees a return to some sense of normality.

Christmas Cheer!



In place of our usual Christmas Carols, each class has produced a short video on the topic of Christmas. We hope you enjoy them. All videos will be available via the Teams app and on the school website from Thursday 17th December <https://www.rednalhilljuniors.com/parents-information/christmas-cheer-from-all-at-rhjs>

Value Word Champions

At RHJS, we have 6 core values. Each half term, we talk in detail about one of the values and what it means to us. We do this in class discussions, Philosophy for Children Lessons and in assemblies.

We value **being part of a community.**

We value **building relationships.**

We value **being the best that we can be.**

We value **making good choices.**

We value **being an individual.**

We value **being respectful and considerate.**

We value **building relationships.**

Last half term we focused on 'we value building relationships' and we had many valuable conversations around what this means to us as a school.

At the end of the half term each class selected a 'Value Champion' and this person was selected as they are the perfect role model for this value. They were celebrated during a whole class assembly.

Autumn Term 1 Value Champions – We value being part of a community

3KS –	3NC – Jessica Clouston	3AY – Jack Dale
4EO – Jaylen Singh	4SO – Lily-Rae Stanley	4NE – Rhys Tovey
5TH –	5VR – Jennifer-Rose Newby	5NB – Graham Cartwright-Lockley
6LF – Imogen Williams	6SM – Rose Brook	6SC – Jack Crowley

This half term we are exploring the value 'Making Good Choices' and we will look forward to selecting and celebrating the value champions at the end of term.

Snow Days Guidance



GUIDANCE TO PARENTS AND FAMILIES REGARDING SEVERE WEATHER – Dec 2020

We will endeavour to keep our school open and operating as normal. However, in the event of severe adverse weather it may be necessary to ‘make a decision’ to close the school for the safety of the children and staff. Following the Severe Weather Guidance from the DfE (Dec 2015), the following policy and procedure exists for Rednal Hill Junior School.

The decision to close will be made by the head teachers in consultation with the site manager and chairs of governors considering the following:

- **Health and safety – will remaining open constitute a significant risk to pupils and/or staff.**
- **Availability of staff – has the severe weather meant that a significant number of staff have been unable to attend making it impossible to open.**

Our first priority will always be to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff, parents and families.

Where practical, we will consider opening later in order to enable staff and children to have additional time to travel to school safely. We will clear paths within school to make access as safe as possible and will keep supplies of grit to support this.

School Closure Procedure:

1. As soon as the decision to close school has been taken, we will inform you via our **text service**.
2. A headline message informing of the closure will also be posted on the **School website** www.rednalhilljuniors.com
3. Listen to **BBC Radio WM - 95.6FM** where there will be regular updates.
4. Closures will be listed on the **BBC Radio WM website** www.bbc.co.uk/wm.
5. The site manager will be in school to advise parents and families, on arrival, that the school is closed

6. Please be aware that the phone lines may not be answered because of staff not being able to make it into school. Please refer to the school website for updates.
www.rednalhilljuniors.com
7. The decision to reopen will be taken by the Site Manager & Heads. Parents will be informed via our **text service & website**

Revised start and end times to the school day



We've been discussing how to make the start of the day a little more productive, particularly for Y3 and Y4. As the children are used to a soft-opening and things are running particularly smoothly, we feel that this slight revision will not compromise what is already in place to segregate the bubbles on entry or exit. So after some discussion we have decided to slightly revise the start times of the day. **The new start times will take effect from Tuesday 5th January 2021.** There will also be a slight revision to the end of the day for Y5 and Y6.

Arrive

- Y3/4 arrive 8:30 to 8:40
- Y5/6 arrive 8:40 to 8:50

Depart

- Y3/4 depart 3:15

- Y5/6 depart 3:25

Everything else stays the same.

Please note, a prompt arrival, at the designated times, is essential for things to run smoothly. Drop of circumstances for siblings remains unchanged.

Class Assemblies



Don't forget all of our class assemblies are available on the website at:

<https://www.rednalhilljuniors.com/parents-information/celebration-assemblies/class-assemblies>

4EO' s class assemble is up next on or around the 27th January!

Virtual Open Day



Rednal Hill Junior School would normally hold an open day, during late autumn, for parents interested in sending their child to the Juniors in September 2021. Clearly, in the current climate, we're unable to hold any meetings in school so we've produced something that will hopefully give you an insight into what Rednal Hill Junior School is all about. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact on enquiry@rednalhilljuniors.com.

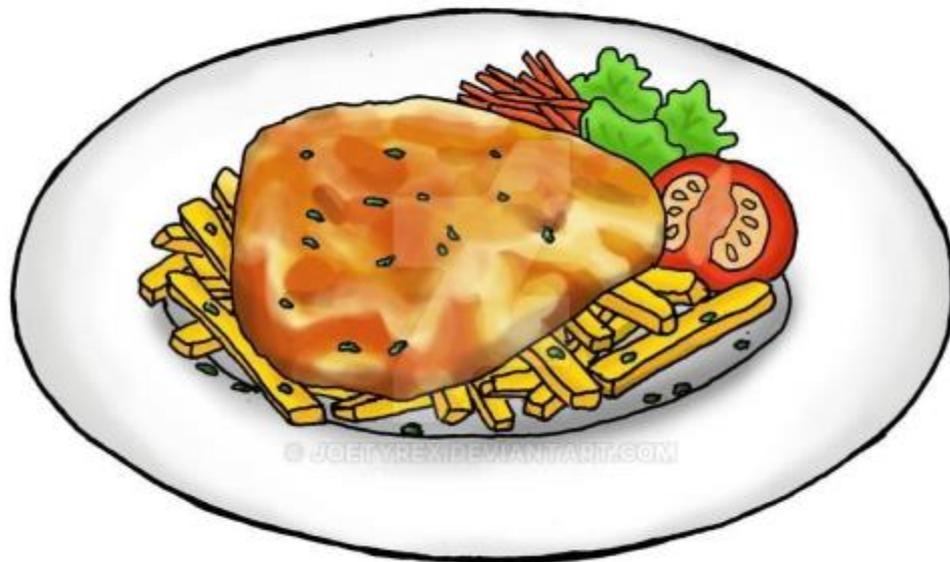
[Rednal Hill Juniors Virtual Open day](#)

The video can also be found on the school's website by [clicking here](#).



1 - Rednal Hill Junior School virtual open day.

Free School Meal Vouchers for Xmas Period



We are delighted to confirm that Birmingham City Council is able to support the provision of supermarket vouchers for children eligible for free school meals over the Christmas school holiday, as part of its Winter Grant allocation. The scheme goes live the W/B 7th December. The vouchers will be requested by the school to the value of £30, to cover the two weeks of the holiday at £15 per week. The vouchers will be delivered in the usual fashion.

Primary Assessment changes



Year 6 SATs:

- Sats in reading and maths and the teacher assessment of writing will go ahead in 2021
- The Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) test will not take place
- The science teacher assessment will also be removed
- There will be a 'flexible approach' to the administration of the KS2 tests by extending the timetable by a week until 26th May

Year 4 MTC

- The multiplication tables check (MTC) will not be statutory. Here at Rednal we have decided to take the optional test during June 2021, [for more information click here](#)

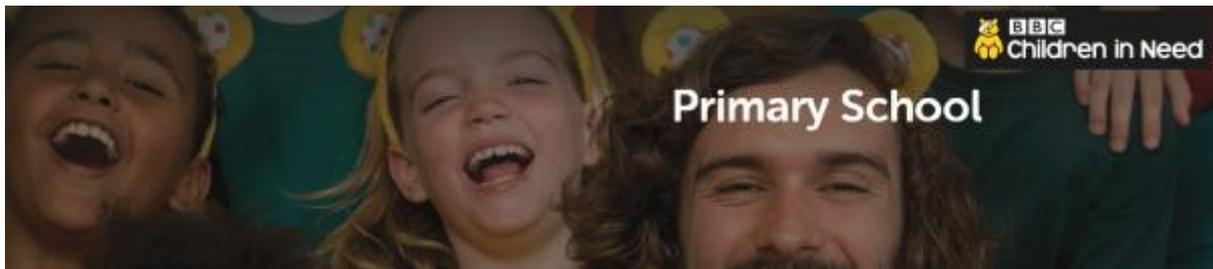
Home Learning



I'd like to say a huge thankyou to the children and staff that have been involved in our home learning offer this term. The home learning offer has progressed so fast, it has been hard to keep up. A huge thank you needs to go Mrs Allan. I spoke to Mrs Allan during the summer about our remote learning offer and wanting it to be "something to be proud of". She took this idea and made it far more than I

ever imagined it would be. This is no mean feat, considering the whole approach was new to all of us. I also feel I need to make a special mention of Miss Graves and 4SG, Miss Maddams and 6SM and Miss Sedgwick and 3KS, who have had some wonderful feedback from parents and children. Many thanks for those that took the time to e-mail, your words and the responses from the children have made all the hard work worthwhile.

Children in Need



Many thanks to all those that contributed to this year's Children in Need. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that we raised the grand total of £244.32.

WhatsApp Dos and Don'ts – compiled by Y6 pupils



The use of WhatsApp and other messaging platforms have been causing some difficulties for children during the term. Year 6 children took some time in one of their PSHE lessons to reflect on what the purpose of having a WhatsApp account is and how to use it responsibly.

It was recognised that WhatsApp can be a really valuable way to communicate with one another and keep connected with friends during difficult times, however the children identified that sadly it can sometimes be used as a space to be unkind.

Year 6 have produced a list of 'Dos and Don'ts' when using WhatsApp that we wanted to share with families, so that we are all promoting safe and responsible use of this messaging App for our children. Well done Year 6 for coming up with some great guidance for us all.

WhatsApp Dos	WhatsApp Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share positive things – happy vibes! • Send compliments • Have fun • Be kind, make people happy • Have a laugh and a joke (but not at the expense of others) • Talk to people, share information that will help • Have respect for others • Think about the kind of information you share in groups you are part of • Choose your words carefully, think about what your message says before you send it. • Only add and/or accept people you know well • Leave a group if you don't want to be part of it, or don't like what's being said • Let people leave the group if they choose to • Report concerns you have to adults • Mute notifications for certain amounts of time to give you a break. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use rude emojis, comments, pictures, songs etc • Argue – it's ok to disagree respectfully • Get involved in other people's problems/issues • Create groups to humiliate others • Be mean or unkind • Name-call • Create unnecessary groups with no purpose • Post spam e.g. constant calls and messages that are unwanted and/or pointless voice notes • Swear • Prank • Laugh at others to embarrass them • Judge people • Spread rumours about others • Send messages at times when people are likely to be resting/asleep.

From Birmingham with Love



We've all been through a tough time with Covid-19 and repeated lockdowns. For many families it can get harder over Winter, which is why we're here to help. Here are some of our partners' most used services and support, which might make life a little bit easier...

1. **Online parenting course.** We've pre-paid for every parent in Birmingham to access a [parenting course](#). Just enter the access code "COMMUNITY" at the top of the page to claim. There are courses for parents, carers and grandparents of children from bump to

19. Learn about how your child develops, and get tips to manage their behaviour.

2. Mental health support. In these difficult times we have to look after our mental health. For young people aged 11-25 there are forums, guides and counselling available at [Kooth](#). If your child 0-25 needs support, get in touch with Pause by calling 0207 841 4470 or **email**. Adults can get support from [MIND](#) by calling 0121 262 3555. Or for urgent help call [Forward Thinking Birmingham](#) on 0300 300 0099.

3. Financial help. If you've lost your job, or are struggling for food or rent there are services that can help. [Local welfare provision](#) can make a big difference if you are in a crisis and need food, fuel or basic white goods. [Discretionary Housing Payments](#) may be able to help with rent. And there are [food banks](#) across Birmingham that are here to help.

4. Domestic abuse. For women and children affected by domestic abuse please see [guidance](#) or confidentially contact [Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid](#). For Men, please contact [Respect](#).

5. Problems with drugs or alcohol. A new, discrete app called Staying Free is available on Android or Apple. Use the code "birmingham11" for pre-paid access. To speak to someone call [Change Grow Live](#).

6. Bereavement support. It's a terrible time to lose a loved one — you can get help by calling 0121 687 8010 or from [Cruse](#).

7. Early help for families. If anyone in your family needs more help, from public services or community groups, then please contact our [voluntary sector local leads](#). We have ten areas which can connect you to support across the city.

If you are worried about a child, please call Birmingham's Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121 303 1888. In an emergency, including child abuse, contact the Police on 999. You can also [chat](#) to the Police.

Designated disabled parking space & school drive access'



We have one disabled parking space available close to the school entrance/foyer. Please can we remind you that this space is reserved for the use of blue badge holders, and shouldn't be used as a parking space by other drivers.

The school drive is closed off during school drop-off (8:30-9:05a.m) and pick-up (3:15-3:35p.m) times. Please can parents/carers not attempt to bring cars onto the drive at this time unless you have made a specific arrangement to do so with a member of school staff.

Term Dates, Training Days, Swimming and Special Occasions



Assemblies

	3AY	3KS	3NC	4EO	4NE	4SG
Remote Assembly	05-05-21	31-03-21	26-05-21	27-01-21	03-03-21	23-06-2021
	5NB	5TH	5VR	6LF	6SC	6SM
Remote Assembly		10-02-21		PM 06-07-21 & AM 07-07-21 (times to follow)		

Key dates

<p>Test Weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> W/B 18 January Y6 Mocks W/B 8 March Y3-4-5 W/B 15 March Y6 Mocks SATs Week W/B 10 May W/B 14 June Y3-4-5 <p>Parent conversations, proposed times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 & 19-01-2021 Y3/4 20 & 21-01-2021 Y5/6 12 & 13-07-2021 (times to follow) 	<p>School Photographer in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 2nd December <p>Sports Days (guidance allowing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y3 & Y4's sports day 23-06-2021 am Y5 & Y6's sports day 24-06-2021 am <p>Both will start as soon after 9am as possible.</p>	<p>Transition day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-06-2021 <p>Y6 Leavers' Production:</p> <p>There will be 2 shows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 06-07-2021 at 2pm Wednesday 07-07-2021 at 9:30am. <p>Final live reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released on 09-07-2021
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Term dates during 2020-2021

<p>Autumn Term 2020</p> <p>Term Starts: Thursday 3rd September 2020</p> <p>Autumn Half Term: Break-up Friday 23rd October 2020 - Off 26th October to 2nd November</p> <p>Back to school Tuesday 3rd November 2020</p> <p>Christmas Holiday Break-up Friday 18th December 2020 - Off 21st December to 4th January 2021</p>	<p>Spring Term 2021</p> <p>Term Starts: Tuesday 5th January 2021</p> <p>Spring Half Term: Break-up Friday 12th February 2021 - Off 15th February to 19th February 2021</p> <p>Back to school Monday 22nd February 2021</p> <p>Easter Holidays Break-up: Thursday 1st April 2021 - Off 2nd April to 16th April 2021</p>	<p>Summer Term 2021</p> <p>Term Starts: Monday 19th April 2021</p> <p>May Day Monday 3rd May</p> <p>Summer Half Term: Break-up Friday 28th May 2021 - Off 31st May to 7th June</p> <p>Back to school Tuesday 8th June 2021</p> <p>Summer Holidays Break-up: Wednesday 21st July 2021</p>
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Swimming Dates

SWIMMING 2020 - 2021



YEAR 3

CLASS	FIRST DAY OF SWIMMING	LAST DAY OF SWIMMING	
3KS	Tuesday 6th October 2020	Tuesday 19th January 2020	9 weeks
3AY	Tuesday 26th January 2021	Tuesday 27th April 2021	10 weeks
3NC	Tuesday 4th May 2021	Tuesday 13th July 2021	10 weeks

YEAR 5

CLASS	FIRST DAY OF SWIMMING	LAST DAY OF SWIMMING	
5VR	Friday 9th October 2020	Friday 8th January 2020	7 weeks
5NB	Friday 15th January 2020	Friday 12th March 2021	8 weeks
5TH	Friday 19th March 2021	Friday 28th May 2021	8 weeks

YEAR 6

CLASS	FIRST DAY OF SWIMMING	LAST DAY OF SWIMMING	
6LF	Friday 11th June 2021	Friday 18th June 2021	2 weeks
6SC	Friday 25th June 2021	Friday 2nd July 2021	2 weeks
6SM	Friday 9th July 2021	Friday 16th July 2021	2 weeks

School contact details



If you would like to contact us please see details below:

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0121 453 2520

enquiry@rednalhilljuniors.com

Visit us on the web at www.rednalhilljuniors.com.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

