



Istead Rise Primary Celebration Newsletter



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19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Successful Return! - It seems difficult to imagine that it has already been a fortnight since we fully reopened and welcomed all children back to Istead Rise. The days have passed by very quickly, as pupils have rapidly readjusted to the daily routine of school life. It is very apparent that our children are extremely happy to be back where they belong, and we have been greeted with smiles and positivity every morning, not only from children as they arrive at school, but also parents and carers! I know that many of you feel very relieved by this return to normality, and we thank you for the work you have done, both during periods of remote learning, and in preparing your children for their return to school.

Across the media, there has been much negativity about children's academic prospects and much coverage of how 'lost learning' will affect the long term prospects of this generation of learners. We fully understand that this will be a cause of concern for many parents, so would like to share how positive the return to full time school-based learning has been for pupils at Istead Rise. Far from the popular fears that children would struggle to reintegrate back into their classrooms, or would have forgotten how to employ basic skills, we have seen evidence of excellent learning across the school, and our pupils are already making very good progress. Classrooms are calm and settled, children are engaging very well with their learning and pupils' exercise books are steadily filling with fantastic examples of very high-quality work. We recognise that some pupils may still need greater support than others to achieve their full potential, but all staff are greatly encouraged by the fantastic attitudes and appetite for learning that the children are demonstrating and are ready and determined to help them succeed.

Activity Days - Our activity days have also been very successful, and we know that the children have enjoyed trying new things and gaining new experiences. Many parents have also contacted us to share their positive feedback on these events and we are very grateful for your comments and support. Read further on to find out what children have been up to!

Anti-Social and Dangerous Driving and Parking - Unfortunately, we have received a number of complaints from local residents and parents regarding dangerous and anti-social driving and parking behaviour outside of the school. We implore everyone to show consideration and respect when dropping their children to school. Please do not park in the clearly marked and coned areas and do not block residents' driveways.

We thank you for your continued support and wish everyone a fantastic weekend!

Steve Payne, Head of School



Mr Tyler having a bit of trouble getting out of a tunnel this week!





Sycamore Class Art & PE Days



The children in Sycamore class have enjoyed two activity days so far. We have had an 'art day' and a 'PE day' and both have been lots of fun!

During the 'art day' the children learnt how to use a compass to draw circles (something they'd never done before!) and how to use these to make artwork. We used 'mandalas' as inspiration for our paintings and the children all produced some beautiful pictures.



When the children took part in their PE day, they were able to do lots of different activities on the field. These included golf, tennis, football, javelin and a bean bag throw. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, despite the weather!



Palm Class Gardening Day



Year 2 have had a great time on their activity days so far! Last week, we had a gardening day where we planted all sorts of different seeds! We decided that it would be interesting to try and grow foods such as carrots and tomatoes, as well as flowers. We also spent time digging and planting seeds in the area outside of our classroom window to try and brighten up the playground. Finally, we made posters to warn people that new plants would be growing there and to make sure they were careful around this new area. We will now be taking good care of our new plants, watering them and making sure they have enough sunlight and space to grow.



Birch & Cherry Classes Sports & Forest School Days

Year 4 has had an amazing couple of fun packed outdoor activities. Our first was a sports day/ assault course which, despite the rain, all the children remained calm, sensible and smiling throughout. They got to experience a whole range of events: Nerf gun target aiming, javelin, table tennis, relay races, through the hoop races, netball shots, hockey passes, golf putt and beanbag aim. In addition to all of this, there was an indoor assault course and rounders. By the end of the day, we were all exhausted!

This week, Year 4 has experienced an action packed day in the Forest, learning new skills and getting a chance to practise some existing ones. All the children were motivated to lead their own learning and enjoyed den building, hapa zome printing (leaf prints), bark rubbing, making medals and key rings, as well as enjoying the new swing and climbing tree. They loved the day and it was great to see how well they cooperated and took ownership and pride in what they were doing. Toasting marshmallows over a fire and sandwiching them to make smores was a firm favourite!





Willow Class Activity Days



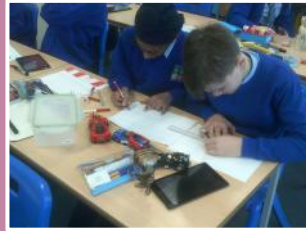
For our first fun day this term we had an art day based on our topic 'Tudors'. We had lots of fun learning to make Tudor ruffs and creating portraits of ourselves as a Tudor King or Queen.

On our second fun day we had the best time in the forest with Mrs Clark. We made dens, fences, bridges, medals and Luella even managed to make a ladder. Mrs Brown and Bettie got rather muddy when they lost their balance on the swing. A highlight of the morning was toasting marshmallows over the fire to make smores, which were so yummy! In the afternoon we continued working on our speed stacking skills.



Aspen Class Forest School & Animation Days

This term, Aspen have had a forest day which included den building (especially helpful for shelter from the elements on the day), mallet making, fence building, fire building, and cooking smores on the fire, tree climbing and using the new dragon swing. It was an excellent day in which the children excelled, and had an amazing time.



We have also held an animation day, where the pupils created stop motion movies based on a scene from a movie or television programme. This included script writing, creating the backgrounds, creating the stop motion animations one frame at a time, and recording voice-overs, sound effects and music. This was a day that really required our value of perseverance, as it is a slow and arduous process

where each second of animated film requires 24 individual images - some pairs had close to 1000 separate images! Once recording was complete we had the opportunity to watch our creations.

Elm Class Sport & Culture Days

During our first week back, Elm class really enjoyed having a class sports day! We took part in races, football drills, team games and even target practice using Nerf guns!

This week Elm class enjoyed a culture day, learning about Italy. We tasted some Italian food and had a fantastic time making our own homemade pizzas and choosing toppings to go on them!



**RED
NOSE
DAY**

**Donate
Today**



Oak Class Activity Day

In Year 1, we had an activity day where we celebrated Mother's Day. The children made cards for all their mummies and thoroughly enjoyed their day. They also made beautiful vases that had their faces in the middle. We all hope you had a lovely time.





Fun in the Forest!



More Fun in the Forest!



Keep Mr Loe safe and do not park across or near the crossing patrol

Safe Parking Around Our school

Please park further away and walk the rest - it's good for the heart & mind

Check out the KCC link for parents
<http://www.responsibleparking.co.uk/index.php>

Please do not block residents' driveways

Please do not move or damage the cones.



Please do not park on the pavement and force adults & children into the road

Thank you for parking responsibly

To report parking problems outside our school please call your local Parking Enforcement office at Gravesham Borough Council
parking.office@gravesham.gov.uk
01474 333700



Gravesham Borough Council
(including COVID-19 advice line)
Phone: 01474 337070
Web: www.gravesham.gov.uk

Gravesham Food Bank
Riverside Community Centre, Dickens Road, Gravesend,
DA12 2JY
Phone: 01474 559555
Email: info@graveshamfoodbank.org.uk
Web: <https://gravesham.foodbank.org.uk/>

Citizens Advice
Phone: 0800 1448 444
Web: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Kent Together
Kent County Council 24-hour Helpline
Phone: 03000 419292

Kent Resilience Hub
Supporting 10-16 year olds through COVID-19
and the pressures of everyday life.
Web: www.kentresiliencehub.org.uk
Text: 07520 618850

Kent Live Well Services
Porchlight Community Service Link

- Housing, debt and benefits, including online support
- Support with wellbeing at this difficult time
- Liaising with key agencies on your behalf
- Linking to community help and food parcels
- Can provide you with a mobile phone if you do not have access to one

Phone: 0800 567 7699
Email: info@livewellkent.org.uk
Web: <https://livewellkent.org.uk/in-your-area/dartford-gravesham-swanley>

COVID-19 Mutual Aid UK

Volunteer lead initiative where groups of people get together to support one another.
Twitter: @GravesendAid
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GravesendAid

Choices

Independent domestic abuse charity Dartford and Gravesend
Phone: 0800 917 9948
Hostel Referrals: 01474 352552
Web: www.choicesdaservice.org.uk

Kent Victim Support

Phone: 0808 168 9276
Email: kent.vart@victimsupport.org.uk
Web: www.victimsupport.org.uk

Rethink

Sahayak Asian Mental Health Helpline
Gravesend service, speak in Gujarati, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu & English
Phone: 0808 800 2073

Young Minds

Mental health support for young people
Phone: (Parent Helpline) 0808 802 5544
Web: www.youngminds.org.uk
Young Minds **URGENT** help text YM to 85258

Kent Young Carers

Phone: 0300 111 1110
Email: info@kentyoungcarers.org.uk
Twitter: @KentYoungCarers

North Kent Mind

Mental Health Support (age 17+)
Phone: 01322 291380
Email: admin@northkentmind.co.uk
Web: www.northkentmind.co.uk



Core Values Congratulations to all our winners!

Week Ending 19.03

Acorns Class

Amaia and Lyla for Perseverance

Oak Class

Ruby & Nihaal for Respect

Palm Class

Lyra for Respect & Kasey for Independence

Sycamore Class

Elsie for Independence & Oliver for Self Reflection

Cherry Class

Isabella for Independence & Niamh for Respect

Birch Class

Maisie & Dylan for Independence

Willow Class

Archie & Luella for Respect

Elm Class

Charlie for Perseverance & Tommy for Independence

Aspen Class

Christian for Independence & Ava for Self Reflection

Coronavirus Advice

This link will take you to the GOV.UK website where you will find the latest guidance with regards to what you can or cannot do during lockdown.

[GOV UK Coronavirus Advice](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)