



Ranelagh School

Ranelagh School, Ranelagh Drive, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 9DA
Telephone: 01344 421233
Email: enquiries@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk
Website: www.ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk

21st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems extraordinary that nearly 8 weeks has passed since the start of the new school year. The first half of the autumn term is always busy and I am pleased to say this term is following a similar trend! Our new Year 7 cohort are settling in to new routines with the remainder of the students readjusting to our normal school day and timings. The reintroduction of the long lunch break has been a great opportunity for students to participate in one of our many enrichment activities as well as just spending time with each other.

World Mental Health Day is recognised yearly on 10th October. In acknowledgment of this important event, I would like to focus on the importance of extra-curricular activities and how they can be beneficial to student mental health and well-being.

The [NHS website](#) suggests five steps that people may take to improve mental health and well-being:

1. Connect with other people

During the pandemic, students have been restricted in terms of who, where and when they have been able to socialise. Many of our clubs bring together groups of students who may not have met otherwise. Our extra-curricular clubs really support some of our students to feel a sense of belonging by sharing positive experiences. Lifelong friends may even be found!

2. Be physically active

Our wonderful Physical Education Department are passionate about getting everyone involved. This term I have been struck by the number of students engaging in one of the many physical activity-based clubs on offer to them.

3. Learn new skills

The colder weather and longer nights are drawing in so maybe the students would like to spend some of this time mastering a new skill. This will give them a great sense of purpose and achievement. Encourage your child to look at the [clubs and activities timetable](#) to see if there is a new skill that they would like to develop.

4. Give to others

It is always great to see so many of our students contributing something to the school community. This may be by running a club, organising a charity event or taking visitors on tours of the school. Thank you to all the students for the time they give to make our community stronger.

5. Pay attention to the present

Paying more attention to the present moment can improve our mental wellbeing. This includes our thoughts and feelings, our body and the world around us. Some people call this awareness "mindfulness".



Mindfulness can help us enjoy life more and understand ourselves better. It can positively change the way we feel about life and how we approach challenges.

If your child hasn't done so already then please encourage them to get involved in the wide range of activities offered by our dedicated staff. We want all students to make the most of the many opportunities and create fond memories of their time at Ranelagh.

Parking on site/off site

I have been noticing an increasing number of cars using the school site for drop off in the morning. Please may I remind some parents/carers that students should not be dropped off on the school site unless there is an exceptional reason. Ranelagh Drive is a very narrow road that is shared by cars and pedestrians. Limiting the traffic at peak times is essential in helping to keep students and residents safe. If there is an exceptional reason then please do contact me at school. Those parents/carers dropping off/collecting children off site are also reminded of the importance of not obstructing driveways or access points for residents and other road users and of not waiting in their car with the engine running. The school enjoys positive relationships with its neighbours, and it is important to preserve these.

COVID 19 updates

Please refer to my letter dated Thursday 21st October 2021 for the latest information. There are changes to our procedures in school from Monday 1st November.

Year 7 Holy Communion

On Friday 8th October Year 7s were delighted to welcome Reverend Richard Lamey to lead their first communion service at the school. Year 7 communion is a significant date in the calendar, as all students are able to unite in what is a meaningful learning and spiritual experience (and this time we were allowed to sing hymns!) Whilst parents were unfortunately unable to attend, students conducted themselves brilliantly, with four students reading intercessions. In class, students prepared for this event by re-examining the events of the last supper and discussing the significance of the sacrament they would witness or partake in.

We look forward to further full school communion services later in the academic year.

SIMS Parent App

I am sorry that some of you are having technical issues with the SIMS Parent app. The issues we are all facing are not school centred. Our SIMS Data Manager has provided me with a detailed list of the issues and I am liaising directly with Capita to find a quick and satisfactory solution. In the short term some functionality may not be available for some users. Thank you for your patience.

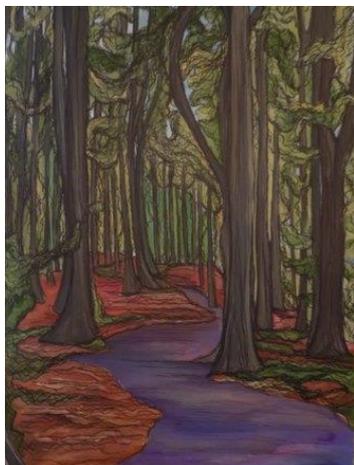
HEADS OF HOUSES – 2021-2022

BRAYBROOKE	CLEAVE	WATERSON	WINROW
Evie Barrows (6D) Holly Connolly (6D) Lauren Dand (6G) Megan Dell (6C)	Olivia Davis (6E) Lara Kabigting (6H) Indianna Roper (6G) Anna-Rose Forsdick (6F)	Jasmine Bains (6E) Sam Cooper (6G) Charlotte Walsh (6D) Emily Woodards (6H)	Emma Juden (6F) Jack Clayton (6A) Isabelle Hawley (6F) Bethany Irons (6E)

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Art

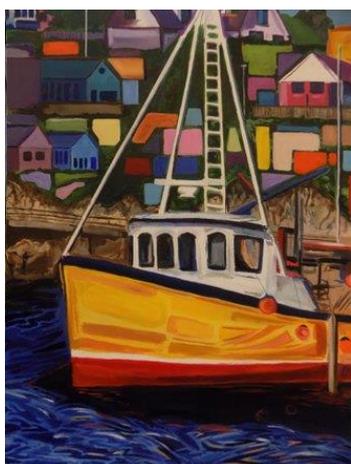
Art into Industry



We believe that a stimulating work environment enhances productivity and well-being amongst staff, students and visitors alike.

“Art can break down linguistic, cultural and geographical boundaries between staff as well as make an important contribution to the perception of a company in the community’. Colin Tweedy

Ranelagh School has an impressive reputation for the Arts. Recent work by our students have achieved local and national acclaim with A level students’ work being recognised as contributing to the highest standard across the country.



Our Art into Industry project has been introduced to bring quality, original art within the everyday reach of a wider audience for the benefit of business and the school.

We hope that the links we establish with you through our Art into Industry initiative will enable you to invest in your local community and will also raise your company’s profile with a potential workforce of the future: our students.

To maintain the freshness and dynamism of your workplace we will rotate the artwork on an annual basis, letting you choose the paintings that most suit your needs.



You can select from a wide range of content, sizes, styles and shapes to best suit your office environment.

Our fees of £250 per painting, assist in covering student materials. Any profits we make will be re-invested in the school to enrich the creative experience of our pupils.

Ranelagh is committed to the highest standards of education; this fact is reflected in our last 3 OFSTED inspections which recognised our school as outstanding.

Please join us in this enterprising initiative. We want our talented pupils to be proud of their achievements and we want you and your employees to share in their creativity and success.



Contact: Annie Edmunds, Director of Visual Arts,
Email: aedmunds@ranelagh.bonitas.sch.uk

Art Trip to Tate Britain Review



Upon arriving at the Tate Britain on Monday the 11th of October, Art classes from Year 12 and 13 were excited to see Paula Rego's fine art exhibition.

Split into two groups, they took turns entering the exhibition with respect to COVID rules.

The chronological presentation of her work meant that viewers were guided through the art of her life, engaging with all the historic and personal events that impacted her confident, rich style. Her paintings began very expressive and experimental, creating large, colourful collage works.

As the exhibition progressed, so did the awareness of Rego's driven, feminist and humanitarian passions; shown in her series called 'possession' which included large pastels depicting women's experience of both martyrdom and self-determination, and also her bold but moving 'The pain of others'. However, her colourful quirky style in the majority of her paintings meant students stood in awe of this Portuguese artist, while also learning a few tricks and gaining fresh ideas for their own A level portfolios.

Meanwhile, students waiting to view Rego's works, were free to explore the rest of Tate Britain's abundance of fine art. Students were also encouraged to do their own sketches throughout the day, often taking inspiration from paintings that correlated with their own portfolio topics.



A particular highlight of the trip, was getting to see the bonus exhibition 'Parallel Planet' by Heather Philipson which was visually stimulating.

A big thank you to Ms Edmunds, Miss Bailey, Mrs Arnold and Mrs Maple for organising this wonderful trip!

Toby Dossett 6D

Computer Science

The Computer Science Department would like to present our brand-new Computer Corner. The inside of a desktop computer is not as complicated as you may think and in our Computer Corner you can find the major components that make the inside of a computer as put together by our GCSE Computer Science student Conner Wilkinson (11U). Conner went through our extensive collection of computer parts and put them on display in C67 for everyone's enjoyment. You will find an old CPU, different motherboards, memory cards, fans, buses, hard drives, cd/dvd drives and many other artifacts!



Drama & Music

School Musical

This year, it brings the Drama and Music departments great pleasure to invite students and staff to audition for the next whole school musical of 'Little Shop of Horrors'.



We are looking for actors, dancers and singers for an array of parts, large and small.

If you would like to be a part of this fun and energetic show, come along to auditions at the following times:

Tuesday 9th Nov after school in M1 - Year 10 & 11

Thursday 11th Nov lunchtime in the Studio - Year

8 & 9

Wednesday 17th Nov lunchtime in the Studio - Year 7

Thursday 18th Nov lunchtime in M1 - Year 12 & 13

Audition materials can be picked up from the back of the Drama Studio on top of the class boxes

English

National Poetry Day Competition

Thursday 7th October was National Poetry Day which we celebrated with an exciting poetry competition. Students from all year groups were challenged to write any style of poem they liked, whether it be limerick, Haiku, acrostic, sonnet or free verse. The theme this year was choice.

Poems from all year groups were entered with a whole range of perspectives, from what to have for breakfast to the big decisions about the future. Well done to everyone who took part – all entries were superb!

After a long deliberation, three amazing winners were chosen:

Seth Milambo 7V 'Choice (a song)', Patti Mandache 10W 'The Choice of Life Exists on Both Sides', and Skyla Priddle 8W 'Choice'.

Congratulations to these three well deserved winners who had both flair and rhythm – bravo!

Geography

Geography trip - Dinton Pastures, River Emmbrook

On the 14th and 15th of September, Year 11 GCSE Geography went to pursue the fieldwork section of their course. They are currently studying rivers and our visit to Dinton Pastures enabled us to conduct an experiment using the River Emmbrook as our model. The intention of the experiment was to compare our results against the Bradshaw Model. Both groups were excited to be out and about again.

Below are two students comments on the day:

Tilly Connelly: I conducted my fieldwork on the very wet first day. The overall experiment was interrupted and hampered with the heavy rainfall. Therefore, the experiment being in a river, turned out to be a struggle. I wore my wellingtons, hoping that it would shield me from wet and cold feet throughout the day, but I was wrong. The stream overflowed my boots and I was stuck with dripping socks for the remainder of the day. However, this didn't stop my group and I from having fun and collecting a variety of results. By the end of the tiring yet insightful day, we all had results which we could use for our exams and we were very lucky to have been able to pursue this fieldwork in person. I really enjoyed the drizzly day.

Daisy MacDonald: I had the pleasure of conducting my fieldwork on the second, sunnier, day. After heavy rainfall the day before, we were lucky to have a strong river to assess. Nevertheless, the day didn't not start off so easy; the trains were delayed. My group and I were stuck, sat outside on the Bracknell station platform for an extra hour. This wasn't all bad because we got to brainstorm our predictions of the work and get our geography caps on. Once we arrived at the destination, we got to work straight away. Our measuring and sketching went smoothly.

MFL

European Day of Languages

On 23rd and 24th September, the Modern Foreign Languages department hosted a range of events and competitions to celebrate European Day of Languages.

The celebrations began with Year 7 students taking part in a foreign languages' poster and pebble competition. We were very impressed by the quality of this year's entries, as well as by the creativity that students showed in this competition. Well done to all students involved!



Year 8 students participated in a language "boxing match". Students used their Oracy skills to discuss the importance of the Ranelagh Student Learner Profile (RSLP) qualities in language and learning, working as a team and showing off their persuasive debating skills in the "ring".

Year 9 students took part in our annual Foreign Language Quiz, where they showed off an impressive knowledge of foreign languages and culture. Well done to those students that managed to answer even the most obscure questions!

The celebrations continued when we had the opportunity to taste a variety of European food for breakfast and lunch. Our thanks to the canteen staff for preparing all the delicious dishes.

We also held a lesson for beginner's in Italian, for students in Year 10 and 11. They had the opportunity to learn some useful Italian phrases to show off on their next trip to Italy!

The final event of the celebration saw Year 7 and 8 students taking part in a fiercely contested Treasure Hunt around the school. This required students to put their language and cultural knowledge into practice. Congratulations to Joshua,



Tom and Hayden in 8Z, and Annabelle, Poppy and Elisha in 7W for finding all the clues and answering the questions correctly!

The celebrations were a great success thanks to the enthusiasm and passion of all students, and comments from those that took part in the activities made this week so worthwhile:



“Last Friday we found out that we had won the European day of Language treasure hunt. We were shocked but excited to be announced this year’s winners and to get the reward of a book. We worked as a team throughout the task and took our time with each clue. We brainstormed each question until we found a satisfactory answer to it. I personally found it fun and exciting and would recommend it to the Year 7s for next year. I hope to do it again in Year 9!” - Joshua, Year 8

“After finding out that my team had won one of the European day of language competitions I was beaming for the rest of the day in earning a prize that our trio had won. The diary is now special to me because I still can’t believe I’ve won it” - Hayden, 8Z

The events were thoroughly enjoyed by all students, and the MFL department would like to take this opportunity to thank both students and staff for joining us in celebrating foreign languages and cultural diversity.

RE

Holocaust Education Ambassadors

We are pleased to announce our Holocaust Education Ambassadors, who will work with the Holocaust Educational Trust on the ‘Lessons from Auschwitz Project’. They have the opportunity to meet virtually with a Holocaust survivor, view the Auschwitz Memorial museum through virtual reality and engage with first-hand testimony. They will then share their experience/knowledge with other members of the school community. The four Holocaust Education Ambassadors are:

Stephanie Barter (6F), Joseph Fuller (6A), Charlotte Walsh (6D) and Chelsea Wood (6A).

ROUTINE INFORMATION

Uniform

All students are now wearing winter uniform. Thank you for the support you give the school in encouraging your children to look smart. In particular, students are reminded that:

- ✓ Shirts/blouses **must** be tucked in
- ✓ Skirts must not be rolled up
- ✓ No jewellery, except as stated on the website
- ✓ Long hair must be tied back off the face; no extreme hairstyles
- ✓ Black shoes only – no boots or trainers
- ✓ Skirts to be worn with knee socks/tights
- ✓ All PE equipment/clothing should have a name label or initials

The school office continues to sell Ranelagh school tights and ties. We would also like to reiterate that boys are not permitted to wear skin-tight trousers. If these have been purchased in error, it is possible to buy appropriate replacements at a reasonable cost from the second-hand uniform supply in school.

Contact details

In order to help us to accurately maintain our records, please ensure the school is informed immediately of any change of address, telephone number or email address.

Absence

If your child is displaying the symptoms of COVID-19 or is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform the school early on the first day of absence (by telephone before 9.00am – select option1 and leave a message on the answerphone) and on each subsequent day of absence. If we have not received a message or you do not give the reason for your child's absence the school will contact you. Whilst we encourage prompt arrival to school please also remind your child to sign in at reception if they miss registration. Please refer to the Attendance: School Practice Reference checklist.

Please ensure you complete a Notification of Absence form when your child returns to school following illness. This can be found on the school's parent portal.

Further information regarding attendance can be found on the website:

<https://ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk/school-information/attendance/>

Free school meals

Free school meals are available to children whose parents/carers are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. More information is available from your Local Authority at either www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/schoolmeals/, or please telephone the school and speak to Mrs Moir, Head of Operations and Finance.

Pupil Premium

The school receives additional funding, called the Pupil Premium, for each student in receipt of free school meals, for each looked-after child and children from families with parents in the Armed Forces. This additional funding is used to help children in this group make the best progress possible.

If you would like more information, please contact Miss Starr, Assistant Headteacher.

Mobile telephones

Mobile telephones are not allowed in school. In exceptional circumstances permission to bring a phone into school may be obtained from the Headteacher. In such cases the mobile phone must be handed in at the school office for safekeeping during the day.

School Website

Students parents and carers new to Ranelagh are reminded that the school website is packed with useful information, including details of each 'half terms' menu choices (School Information – Catering), information about clubs and activities (School Information) and support for student well-being (School Information – Keeping Well – Staying Safe).

SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL AND OTHER NOTICES

Friends of Ranelagh – News and updates - Appendix 1

PTA – News and updates– Appendix 2

Ranelagh Prayer Group

The Ranelagh Prayer Group met for the first time in person for over two years due to the restrictions, 16 attended and prayed about the school, its leaders, its staff, the students and you the Ranelagh family. It's really relaxed, lasts for an hour once every term and all are welcome. The name of Jesus is integral to the school as are the way He lived His life and His impact. Regardless of faith or belief, His is a fantastic role model to aspire to. **To love, forgive, show tolerance, welcome and encourage.** Please contact our Chaplain, Adrian Laws: alaws@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk for further information.

The next Ranelagh Prayer meeting will be held on Monday 29th November in the school Library from 7.30pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 25 – Friday 29 Oct	Half Term
Tuesday 2 Nov	Year 11 Computer Science visit to Bletchley Park
Thursday 4 Nov	Prizegiving
Tuesday 9 Nov	Year 12 Open Evening
Monday 15 Nov	Year 11 Mock Examinations (1)
Monday 22 Nov	Year 11 Mock Examinations (2)
Friday 26 Nov	Professional Training Day
Friday 3 Dec	6 th Form Christmas Ball (TBC)
Wednesday 8 Dec	Christmas Concert 7.00pm (TBC)
Thursday 16 Dec	Carol Service – Holy Trinity Church 7.00pm (TBC)
Monday 20 Dec – Monday 3 Jan	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 4 Jan	Start of Spring Term

And finally,

I would like to wish you all a lovely half term break. I hope you all have a relaxing time over the coming week and that you are able to catch up with family and friends.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Griffith'. The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the end.

**Timothy Griffith
Headteacher**



Raising money for your children's benefit

Dear fellow parent

As we look towards the late autumn and the onset of winter, it is with the continuing threat of COVID-19 having over us but with vaccinations available and booster jabs being introduced there is cause for optimism.

That said, the Friends recognise that the school still faces challenges and needs to do things differently to protect students and staff; we are looking at funding projects to make this 'new normal' less of a burden for all concerned but the Friends' ability to do so relies wholly on the generosity of parents. Further details about these projects will be available shortly so please keep an eye on the Friends page of the website: <https://ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk/associations/friends-of-ranelagh/>

It never ceased to amaze me how generous you all can be; I am reminded of Mrs Winrow and her comment, which I paraphrase, that "Ranelagh parents are different" – this is true!

However, in order to continue to be able deliver such aid to the school, we need you to keep donating and for those parents who, for whatever reason, do not currently do so but are in a position to contribute to the Friends, please do contact us about how you can help our school; my e-mail address is below.

If you are interested in the Friends finances, please do ask for a copy of the accounts for 2020-21, which will be available on the Charity Commission website, in due course.

On a personal note, having been a member of the Friends since 2012, and Chairman for the last three years, it is time for me to hand the baton on, particularly since both my children have now left the school.

I would encourage you to get involved; I saw my children thrive in their time at Ranelagh, develop into decent young people and go on to fulfil their ambitions – this was, in small part, due to the contribution that the Friends have made to the school over very many years – to ensure this continues for current and future students, please do consider joining the Friends. We need you!

With all good wishes

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads 'Robert'.

Robert McLean

Chairman

[Friends of Ranelagh](#)

e: robbiemcl@hotmail.com

Ranelagh School PTA

Putting the *fun* into *fundraising*



Dear Parents and Carers,

After some well-deserved time off over the summer, the PTA team is once again ready to raise funds for our school whilst providing opportunities for our school community to come together. COVID made last year very testing for us, but we are pleased to say that the plan (currently!) is to start arranging some face-to-face events again, whilst also continuing to embrace some virtual solutions where it's safer and more effective to do so. This half term has flown by and we are already looking forward to many activities taking place between now and Christmas!

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for our **AGM and committee meeting** on 28th September. The minutes of our meetings are available on the [PTA meetings and newsletter pages](#) within the school website. At our AGM, we welcomed many new [committee members](#) to our PTA and elected a new chairperson – Liz Flanagan – who takes over from Nicola Daniell. A huge thank you to Nicola for leading the PTA over the last few years. It is always fantastic to have new volunteers, who will no doubt bring fresh energy and ideas!

In our AGM, we also ratified our updated **constitution**, which can also be found in the [PTA section of the school website](#).

Our next committee meeting will take place in school soon after half-term on Tuesday 2 November at 6.30pm. Please join us if you would like to find out more about what we do or offer your support – everyone is welcome.

Our next committee meeting will take place in school soon after half-term - on **Tuesday 2 November at 6.30pm**. Please join us if you would like to find out more about what we do or offer your support – everyone is welcome.

We will be having another **Bag2School clothing collection** this term to raise funds. Bag2School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second hand clothing. The more the bags weigh on collection day, the more we get paid! Donations can be dropped off from Friday 29th October until 8pm on Sunday 7th November to any of the following locations:

- 10 Lysander Drive, The Parks, RG12 9NZ
- 28 Astra Mead, Winkfield Row, RG42 7TA
- 27 Top Common, Warfield, RG42 3SH



We can collect men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories (**No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric**). The full list of items that we can collect can be found on the Bag2School website - <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Second Hand Uniform & Textbook Sale



Our PTA second-hand uniform (SHU) team continues to work sorting through donations and supplying families with good quality second-hand uniform. We will have SHU sales at the Year 7 Information Evening on the 19th November and at our Christmas fair (date TBC). In the meantime, if you have any queries or requests regarding second hand uniform please email the SHU team directly - secondhanduniform@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk and one of our volunteers will respond as quickly as we can.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

A small team are busy organising this year's Christmas hamper raffle and will be sharing more details about this soon after half term. Once again, will be asking Year 7 parents to donate items from a allow us to make up beautiful Christmas hampers with lots of Christmas goodies. Please do buy tickets they're available and you could be one of the lucky winners!



we list to filled when

Christmas Fair



This year we are hoping to welcome you to an on-site Christmas event with a difference (subject to COVID regulations at the time). With everything we have been through, we felt that this year that our Christmas event should be about our community. So, our Christmas market with external sellers will remain virtual, and our on-site Christmas fair will focus more on bringing us back together as a community to celebrate Christmas and share fellowship with each other on the first day of Advent, **Sunday 28 November**. Do please join us for

refreshments and a few PTA and teacher stalls following between 1pm and 4pm, after your morning church services.

Virtual Winter Market

Once again, we are running a virtual Winter market Facebook Group for market traders to promote their gifts and products whilst also supporting our school fundraising efforts. It would be nice to support the local businesses who also support our school to buy loved ones (or yourselves!!) some lovely gifts for Christmas. To join the Group, go to [Ranelagh PTA Virtual Market](#).

Other ways to support your PTA!

Bracknell Forest Lottery Scheme is a weekly lottery that raises money for local good causes – and a chance for you to win some money! You can find full details and sign up at: www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk/support/ranelagh-school-pta



KindLink is our online fundraising platform for supporters to make one-off or on-going donations online to the PTA activities. Giving is easy at: kindlink.com/charity/ranelaghschool-pta/profile

Christmas shopping is on the horizon so please sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk - just follow the link and register stating that **Ranelagh School PTA – Berkshire** is your chosen school to receive any commission donated by the stores you shop from.





If shopping with Amazon simply sign up for their [Amazon Smile](#) scheme and they too will make a donation every time you shop. Just choose Ranelagh School PTA as your chosen charity to support.

Keep in Touch

We'll be back in touch via school emails and through our Facebook page - [ranelaghschoolpta](#) - where we will post notices and reminders throughout the term. We also add updates to the school website [PTA pages](#) throughout the year. Alternatively, you can email pta@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk if you'd like to get in touch.

We hope that you all have a very enjoyable October half term.

Ranelagh PTA