



Ranelagh School

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

22nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

“For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1.7)

This has definitely been a half term for building resilience but also one that has enabled us to truly reinforce and live our shared vision. Returning to learning after such a long period of absence has been a challenge for all of us. I am so pleased at how well we have all adapted to the new school day, the enhanced safety protocols and the tighter restrictions on working together. It has been lovely to see so much evidence of the concepts of power, love and self-control both during the school day and in our interactions with each other in our local communities. Thank you for your kind messages, support for our students and staff and for the determination and resilience you all display.

There is much to be hopeful for and to look forward to though. The extra-curricular activities offered to our students will continue to develop, plans are underway for our Remembrance Service and annual Prize Giving Ceremony and the PTA are working hard to ensure that Christmas activities will continue, albeit virtually. A busy half term is ahead of us but I am excited to see what opportunities it brings.

I will now leave you with details of some of the other events and activities that we have managed to continue in the last 8 weeks.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

English

National Poetry Day

October 1st saw the arrival of National Poetry Day. To celebrate, tutor groups in year 7, 8 and 9 were challenged with writing a group poem based on the theme ‘Vision’. It could be as short or long as they wanted and, in any style, – the sky was the limit!

After a difficult deliberation, Miss Oblein picked one winning tutor group per year. Congratulations to these deserving winners: 7Y (Mr Campbell and Miss Evans), 8W (Mr Wiggett) and 9X (Miss Delahunty) – bravo!

Each triumphant student won a scratch and sniff bookmark, merits, and a 1st place certificate!

But let's not forget to give a hearty well done to all tutor groups involved. All entries were imaginative, creative and inspiring; every single poem was a joy to read.



Food Tech

This term in Food Preparation and Nutrition our superstars are:

Year 10

Charlie Bray
Seth Roper
Oliver Anderson
Jesse Thomas
Claudia Smith
Daisy Mc Donald

Year 11

Rebecca Ayre
Sylvie Doran
Ella Baddeley
Josie Taylor
Findlay Anderson
Ethan Corney

This is based upon attitude to learning, organisation and excellent theory work.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Ranelagh School Council Constitution, Election of roles, Charities 2019-2020, Link Groups (Youth Council) and Year Group matters. The Year Teams and Link Groups were represented as follows:

School Council	Representatives
School Council & Development	Josephine Westgate
School Council & Development	William Doran
Year 7	Philippa Sutton & Ryan Fenner
Year 8	Megan Jones & Eliot Blues
Year 9	George Riley and Ella Davey
Year 10	Elliot McCarthy & Harriet Barker
Year 11	Lucie Harvey & Sam Mason
Year 12	Oliver Griffiths & Harriet Taylor
Year 13	Josephine Westgate & William Doran
Captains	Samara Stay, Daniel Ames, Jessica Clayton-Rowley, George Atkinson
Senior Prefect	Louie Regan

The designated charities students have nominated to support for 2020/21 are:

- Pilgrim Hearts (Local Charity) <https://pilgrimhearts.org.uk/>
- A Rocha UK (National Charity) <https://arocha.org.uk/>
- Toilet Twinning (International Charity) <https://www.toilettwinning.org>

ROUTINE INFORMATION

COVID-19 – weekly reminders

You **must not** send your child to school if they or any other member of the household are showing symptoms of the coronavirus. Please follow NHS advice by clicking [here](#)

1. **All students and staff must wear a mask in all corridors and the canteen** (while choosing and paying for food). If you think that your child may be exempt from this ruling please do contact their Head of Year.
2. Resources at school are very limited so **please ensure that your son/daughter has enough masks for each day of the week**. I am reviewing the protocols we have in place to lend mask to students as the cost to the school is significant.
3. Masks should, ideally, be stored in a plastic bag when it is not in use. Masks should not be draped around arms or hanging from ears when not in use.
4. **Masks should be washed daily to ensure good respiratory health**.
5. If your child must travel to school by car, they should be dropped off site. The Ranelagh Drive entrance must not be used unless permission has been given.
6. If your child travels to school using public transport, please ensure that they follow all the social distancing guidelines as advised by the Government.
7. Younger siblings must wait in/by the marquees to be met at the end of the day.
8. At the end of the day students must move away from school quickly and are not to congregate on the school site whilst waiting to meet friends.

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.

At the present time as we deal with a global pandemic and as the cold weather begins to creep in we need to be mindful of maintaining our high standards whilst ensuring students and staff are warm enough to focus on teaching and learning. In order to have ventilation for good respiratory hygiene, doors and windows will remain propped open, until further guidance tells us otherwise.

- ✓ students may wear plain jumpers and/or outdoor jackets in lessons.
- ✓ some students will have hoodies as an outdoor jacket or jumper – these may be worn without the hoods up. Hoodies must be as plain as possible with no large logos/slogans.
- ✓ no hats/gloves are to be worn in classrooms at this time

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) and on each subsequent day of absence. If we have not received a message the school will contact you. Whilst we encourage prompt arrival to school please also remind your son/daughter to sign in at reception if they miss registration. Please refer to the Attendance: School Practice Reference checklist, which is on Insight.

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.

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 Finance & Resources.

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

School policy on phones for years 7 to 11 is clear but we do understand that students may need them after school, particularly during current circumstances, and they cannot be handed in to reception every day for hygiene reasons. If this is the case, students should make sure their phones are turned off and kept safe and out of sight, in bags, for example. Sixth form students are able to have their phones in school and turned on, being able to use them discreetly outside of lessons and for learning purposes during lessons. We would request that if any sixth form student has downloaded the **COVID-19 – NHS Track and Trace App** and has their phone in school that the tracing feature is turned off when they are on school premises.

Parking

Students should not be dropped off on the school site. If there is an exceptional reason, please contact the school. Those parents dropping off/collecting children at the rear or front entrance to the school 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.

The safety of all pedestrians must be our priority.

School Website

Students and parents 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

School nursing newsletter – Appendix 3

And finally,

The October half term will be a wonderful opportunity for the school community to have a change of pace for which we are all so very ready. I would ask you to reinforce the current guidance for social distancing and travel with the young people in your family. Whilst away from the structure provided at school it is vital to maintain good habits to ensure the safety of staff and students when we return in November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Griffith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Timothy Griffith
Headteacher



Raising money for your children's benefit

Dear parents and carers

Let me begin my update on the work of the Friends of Ranelagh by expressing the sincere hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well during this terrible time.

The corona virus has had such a shocking impact on our lives and it may be some little while yet before we can even begin to think of the return of any sense of normality.

You will only be too aware of the impact all of this has had on your children and their education. That is why the Friends agreed, at the very end of the Summer Term, to make funds over to the school to help meet the additional costs that had been incurred in making the school COVID-secure.

The Autumn Term will have thrown up many new challenges, particularly for pupils and parents new to the school and it also meant that many of the opportunities ordinarily available to meet were denied us. One of those is for representatives of the Friends to speak to new parents about the work we do to support the school and its pupils.

If you are a parent who is new to the school and want to know more about the Friends, please do contact me or one of the other trustees. Furthermore, if you have not yet decided to donate to the Friend, I would very much urge you to do so because your contribution will give us the opportunity to help your child and other pupils get the best from their time at Ranelagh.

Likewise, if you are a parent with a child or children at the school and you do not yet donate to the Friends, please do so; further details can be found on the Friends' page of the school website or by following this link: <https://www.ranelagh.bracknell-forest.sch.uk/associations/friends-of-ranelagh/>. Otherwise, do feel free to contact me at: robziemcl@hotmail.com.

It would be remiss of me not to welcome our new Head Teacher; we at the Friends look forward to working with him in the years to come.

To conclude, may I say how much the Friends look forward to being able to meet with as many of you as possible once it is safe and proper for us to do so.

Kind regards

Robert McLean
Chairman
Friends of Ranelagh



Dear Parents and Carers,

AGM & Committee Meeting

Thanks, if you were able to join us for the AGM and Committee meeting via Zoom. The [minutes](#) are available on the School PTA web pages. On the web site we've posted details of the [new elected committee post holders](#) – and look forward to working together over the coming year.

There will be another short committee meeting soon after half term on **Tuesday 3 November at 6.30pm** via Zoom. Details about how to join the meeting are shown below, along with the agenda. Please join us if you can – everyone is welcome.

Second Hand Uniform & Textbook Sale

The total so far this term for SHU sales is now up to **£1,320.80**, which includes **£1,116** from last Saturday's sale. Many thanks for supporting the event and for helping to raise this fantastic amount!

Christmas Raffle

A small team are busy organising this year's Christmas raffle and will be sharing more details about this soon after half term. Prizes will be our beautiful hampers filled with lots of Christmas goodies so please do buy tickets when they're available and you could be one of the lucky winners!

Virtual Christmas Market

We are setting up a Facebook Group for market traders to promote gifts and products on to Ranelagh families. It will be a different twist on our traditional Christmas fair, but it would be nice to support our local businesses and also help families to buy their loved ones some lovely gifts for Christmas. More details will be shared soon inviting you to join the group.

Bracknell Forest Lottery Scheme

Bracknell Forest Lottery 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 here:

www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk/support/ranelagh-school-pta

KindLink

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/ranelagh-school-pta/profile

easyfundraising and Amazon Smile

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.

Keep in Touch

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

Your Ranelagh PTA



Ranelagh PTA Committee Meeting

Online meeting – Tuesday 3 November 2020 @ 6:30pm

<p>Join Zoom Meeting</p> <p>https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5455689573?pwd=NEU2dzl2N0F0eTVYTfVqUCtveHVsdz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 545 568 9573</p> <p>Passcode: pta</p>

AGENDA

	Agenda item	Lead	Outcome
1	Welcome and apologies	Nicola Daniell (chair)	Secretary to note
2	Financial update	Graham Bell / Brett Greaves (treasurers)	To note before discussing funding requests
3	Any requests for funding received	Nicola Daniell (chair)	Committee to discuss and decide on any requests
4	Funding wish list / goals	Tim Griffith (headteacher)	Committee to discuss & agree any immediate funding requests and longer term priorities
5	Forthcoming fundraising activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Christmas raffle b) Virtual Christmas fair c) Online quiz d) Funding platforms and applications 	Helen Connolly (social secretary)	To discuss plans and agree teams for taking forward social events.
6	AOB	All	
7	Date of next meeting	Nicola Daniell (chair)	Agree date and time



School Nursing Newsletter

NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

October 2020

This newsletter aims to provide families and young people with some useful tips from the school nurses for keeping healthy. Childhood is an important time to develop healthy habits and learn crucial life skills. Establishing these habits early on will help to improve your child's quality of life in the future and enable them to reach their full potential.

The School Nurse Support Line

This was successfully launched in June this year to offer health advice and referral into the service for ongoing support if needed. The feedback we have received has been very positive so please contact us if you need this support.



Mon – Fri 9 - 4.30pm.

0118 9312111 and select 'Option 4'



Managing Asthma in the winter

As the temperature gets colder outside you might notice the cold affects your child's asthma symptoms, there may be an increase in coughing and wheezing or breathing may be more difficult. Please make sure your child's asthma is regularly reviewed by their GP or asthma clinic. To help prevent asthma attacks caused by the cold make sure their mouth and nose are covered loosely by a scarf so that the air is warmed before breathing it in. Drinking lots of fluids is also important to help keep the mucus in their lungs thinner so the body can remove it more easily. Make sure your child takes their preventer inhaler regularly as directed by their GP and make sure their reliever inhaler is available at all times. If they are using their reliever inhaler three or more times a week, book an extra asthma review. For further hints and tips about managing asthma please [click here](#)

Flu Vaccine (flu nasal spray)

The school flu vaccine programme is now in full swing, this year it is for all primary aged children and children in year 7. If for some reason your child has missed their vaccine in school please contact the immunisation team on 0300 3650077, they will be able to advise you on the venues for the community immunisation clinics and book an available appointment. The vaccine will not only protect your child from a nasty illness it will reduce the chance of others who are at greater risk from flu such as grandparents and those with other health conditions from flu. To find out who else the flu vaccine is being offered to and more about the vaccine please [click here](#)



NCMP (National Child Measurement Programme) 2020

As you are probably aware due to the current Covid 19 pandemic this programme has been delayed this year. We now anticipate the Year 6 pupils will be measured from January to March 2021 and pupils in Reception from March to July 2021. Some of last years reception classes missed being measured due to the pandemic, however we have been advised by the government that there will be no follow up programme. If you have any concerns about your child's growth and development and would like some support, please contact your school nursing team using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.



Supporting children/young peoples Mental Health

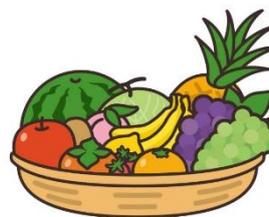
Lock down has had a devastating effect on children and young people's mental health, if you are worried about your child's behaviour or mental health some excellent resources and advice can be found at <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/advice>

Further support and advice on how to talk to your child if you are concerned, help with difficult behaviour and emotions and sleep is also available by clicking [here](#)

Healthy Eating Week

The British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) ran a healthy eating week 28th September to 4th October, if you missed this why not give their suggestions a try over half term. There are some great suggestions for something new to try each day, check them out on the links.

- ❖ **Monday** Eat more wholegrains [click here](#)
- ❖ **Tuesday** Vary your veg [click here](#)
- ❖ **Wednesday** Drink plenty [click here](#)
- ❖ **Thursday** Move more [click here](#)
- ❖ **Friday** Be mind kind [click here](#)
- ❖ **Saturday** Get active together [click here](#)
- ❖ **Sunday** Eat together [click here](#)



Bullying

Anti-bullying week 2020 is Monday 16th – Friday 20th November, this year the theme is United against bullying.

Bullying has a long-lasting effect on those who experience and witness it, we all have a part to make a difference from parents/carers, teachers, politicians to children and young people. Collectively we can all help reduce bullying. For information and advice on what to do if you think your child is being bullied or vulnerable to bullying and to download a pack for parents and carers [click here](#)

Firework and sparkler safety

Bonfire night will be different this year, because of Covid 19 restrictions and large displays will no longer be going ahead, which are the safest place to enjoy fireworks. If you are planning to have your own display please follow the latest number restrictions and make sure you stay safe, every year firework celebrations still end in painful injuries for too many people including young children. Sparklers can also cause some very serious burns For further information: [click here](#)



Do you need support with bedwetting, daytime wetting or soiling?

Bedwetting or otherwise known as enuresis, affects approximately half a million children and teenagers in the UK. Some people can find bedwetting an embarrassing subject to talk about and this can delay the child, young person or family from seeking help

Bedwetting can have a big impact on a child's self-esteem and on their family life.



For more information, how you can help and when to ask for additional support please click [here](#)

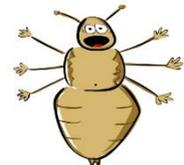
There is also the ERIC website which exists to give every child and teenager with a bowel or bladder condition support. You can visit the ERIC Site [here](#)

National Bug Busting Day 2020 is 31st October!

The aim of this day is to find all headlice and zap them in one fell swoop to stop them tirelessly circulating.

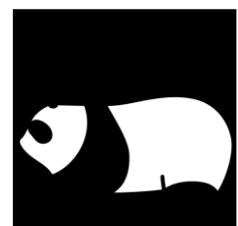
Head lice are really easy to miss and just love any hair, even beautiful clean hair, but you will not necessarily know they are there unless you bug bust. To bug bust you will need a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) which you can get online or at your local pharmacy then follow the wet combing technique. For information on this and about head lice follow: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

or [click here](#)



Panic Attacks?

Do you or do you know someone aged 11-18 years old who suffers panic attacks, if so researchers at Reading University are looking for young people who have panic disorder and a Berkshire based GP to take part in a study to compare 2 psychological treatments. To refer to the study please email panda@reading.ac.uk or if you have any questions.



School Nurse Video

If you missed our school nurse's video you can watch it [here](#)

How to contact your school nursing team.

Bracknell Forest

0300 365 6000 and select option 3 Bracknellforest.SN@berkshire.nhs.uk

Wokingham

0118 949 5055 csnwokingham@berkshire.nhs.uk

Reading

0118 955 6888 csnreading@berkshire.nhs.uk

West Berkshire

01635 273384 csnwestberks@berkshire.nhs.uk

Business hours are Monday to Friday 9am-5pm with reduced cover during school holidays.

Please visit our website [here](#) for more information on a variety of health issues.

