



# Ripley Infant School

Kirk Close

Ripley

Derbyshire DE5 3RY

Headteacher: Mrs P. Doleman BEd Hons, MA(Ed)

Telephone: 01773 743354

Fax: 01773 512638

## RIPLEY INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: Spring Term 1 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

### What a busy start we've had to 2024!

Everyone at Ripley Infants has started 2024 with a fantastic work ethic and attitude; meaning that there has been lots of amazing learning taking place. Children have certainly been demonstrating the ASPIRE value – a Passion for Learning and we have loved seeing all the extra things they have been doing at home as well as in class. The 'Great Fire of London' topic has included a fantastic range of activities to support the children's learning in Year 2. In Year 1 the children have been finding out about explorers, developing their geography skills and also developing their artistic talents when colour mixing. In EYFS, as part of their Fairy tales topic, Goldilocks came to school and ate the children's snack! She left lots of clues for the children to follow and she was very cheeky, sneaking past me at the gate and running away before we could catch her! After half term we will be celebrating World Book Day with a Book Week (4 – 8 March), and a Dress-up Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. A letter giving full details of events during the week will be sent out after half term.

### Parking Issues

Following a number of complaints from residents, we have been asked to remind you **once again** that, for the children's safety, it is vital that cars are not illegally parked on pavements, blocking driveways or pedestrian access, or on the zig-zag markings outside of school. Please ensure you reduce your speed when driving near to school and be considerate to our neighbours and pedestrians when parking. It is becoming a real danger to the safety of our children on a daily basis. Our chair of governors is now in contact with the local council to help address the issue as the road outside school is part of their responsibility and school have no powers to enforce restrictions. We are also working with the Police safer neighbourhood team to help keep our children safe.

## Ofsted visit

On 30<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February we were visited by HMI Mr Paul Halcro and Mrs Katherine Chadbourne, Ofsted inspector, for our inspection. They have asked us to pass on their thanks to the children for welcoming them and spending time talking to them during the visit, they said the children were a credit to the school, and also to parents for completing the Parentview questionnaire and speaking to them in the playground. We expect the report to be released at some point in the next 30 days and you will receive a copy as soon as it is available.

## Parent Governor

I am delighted to inform you that Mr Paul Falconer, who has a child in Owls class, has come forward to fill the parent governor vacancy. Mr Falconer has previously been a governor at the school and brings a range of skills to the governing body. On behalf of the school and governing body I would like to welcome him and we look forward to working together to continue the journey to make our school an even better place.

## PTA

Many thanks to the PTA for organising the Valentine Disco on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The children really enjoyed themselves and there were some examples of amazing dance moves. There may even be a future Strictly Come Dancing star in our midst!

## Other News

- Unfortunately, due to matters beyond our control, Year 2's 'Bikeability' sessions for learning and developing their cycling skills had to be postponed until after Easter. We will let you know the new dates as soon as we have them.
- Next term there will be a Dance after-school club for children in years Reception and Year 1 although, for health and safety reasons, places will be limited to 15 per year group. Choir continues on Tuesday evenings.
- Wake & Shake Club takes place on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8.15-8.45am. Spaces are still available so if you are interested please call or email the school office.
- Next term the ASPIRE value we will be focusing on is Individuality and what makes each of us special.
- We will be fundraising for Red Nose Day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March with a 'wear something red' day. More information to follow.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuing support and hope that you enjoy a restful half term break. See you all back bright and early on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**Many Thanks**

*P Doleman*

Mrs P Doleman  
Headteacher