

**Monday 1 October 2018****Principal's Message****Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope you have had a lovely weekend.

I am keen to thank you for your support of the Resilient Rowan's assembly on Wednesday of last week. Miss McNellis is quite rightly very proud of her class and we do hope you enjoyed coming to see your children too. Our next class assembly is led by Persevering Poplars, on Wednesday 10 October 2018. Their assembly will focus on perseverance. Families' of the Persevering Poplars would be very welcome to join us. Our new caterers will be providing buns for you to enjoy whilst watching the assembly!

In last week's newsletter, I wrote about the importance of excellent attendance. We will revisit this often in the newsletter, as it is of such importance that we keep the benefits of excellent attendance in mind. As parents, we are all determined to do the very best for our children. If we focus on punctuality, for example, have you considered that if your child is on average 10 minutes late per day, this equates to almost an hour of lessons each week! Over the course of a year, this adds up to nearly 2 weeks of schooling! Thank you for your support in ensuring your children arrive to school on time.

In terms of support we receive from the Trust, I would like to ensure you have an awareness of the work of Debra Seekings. Debra oversees Primary provision at The Stephen Longfellow Academy and she and her team work with a number of Ryecroft pupils. As well as hosting children at The Stephen Longfellow Academy on a 1 day a week basis, Debra also carries out outreach support at Ryecroft and she has built up such positive relationships with our children. The sessions led by The Stephen Longfellow professionals are very carefully tailored to meet the needs of pupils. Debra is an expert in her field and she is making a real difference to our young people. I am sure you would like to join me in extending our thanks to Debra and her team.

In terms of our drive to be healthy, I wanted to let you know that the snacks that children enjoy at Captain's Café are carefully considered in terms of their nutritional content. They are low in sugar, fat and salt and they contain hidden healthy ingredient. Last week, for example, the buns contained blueberries, which contributed to them being healthy but also made them delicious! Please look carefully at the pages in the front of the planner as page 16 to 19 are focused on healthy diets. Do take the time to explore this information with your children at home. Our fabulous former Year 6 children were responsible for the creation on page 19, which focused on fat and sugar content and a parent designed page 18, which focuses on the health benefits of different coloured food.

At Captain's Café, we are also thoughtful about looking after the environment. Drinking straws and other single-use plastics cause so much damage to the environment. The straws that we use at Captain's Café are carefully rewashed and sterilised so that we can reuse them, lessening any damage to the environment.

As a Trust, we have experienced an incredibly sad week this week. Last Wednesday a pupil from The Stephen Longfellow Academy was involved in a road traffic accident just off the ring road near Morley. The pupil was 13 years of age and on Tuesday of this week, his life support machine was switched off. Naturally, our heart goes out to his family and friends and the witnesses of the accident. It does bring home though, how important it is to supervise children properly, think carefully about where they are playing out and ensure that our children are not playing out after dark.

We have several parents who are volunteering in school as well as others who are in the process of becoming volunteers. I cannot thank you enough for this. It represents such a valuable contribution and we are sincerely grateful.

Finally, we have updated the newsletter format to include more information about the pupils who are in receipt of our top weekly awards. As well as the Role Models and Super Star information, I hope you enjoy seeing which children have achieved the award of an SLT visit and the photograph of the pupils who were chosen for Captain's Café.

I hope you have a lovely week.

**Mrs Townsley**  
**Principal**

**Captains Café photo: Friday 28 September 2018**



**The Outer West Community Youth Voice Summit**

We are excited to announce that four children from Ryecroft Academy will be attending The Outer West Community Youth Voice Summit event on Monday 22 October 2018. The event will be held in the banqueting suite at Civic Hall in Leeds City Centre. The children that have been invited to this event will have received a separate letter home with a permission slip to be completed and returned to school.

**Main Entrance Gates**

Please could we remind all parents and visitors that the entrance gates must remain closed during school hours. Please ensure that if you are visiting school after 9 am and before 3 pm, the gate must be closed behind you. This is to ensure the safety of our children.

### Spelling Strategy



Words	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

This week's spelling strategy is an old favourite: look, say, cover, write, check. Children look at and say a word from their spelling list, paying attention to the spelling rules and any awkward bits. After covering the word over so they can't see it, they then have a go at writing it, correcting any mistakes. The method is an easy one for children to do independently and helps them to see which mistakes they make. Doing a little bit each day really helps!

### Snacks

Please reminded, if children are bringing break time snacks to school they are allowed to bring fruit or cereal bars only, other less healthy alternatives are not permitted and will be confiscated.



### ATTENDANCE

Whole school attendance for 17 September to 21 September  
Was 95.6%. Congratulations to Fair-Minded Firs  
For achieving 98.3% attendance for this period.

Friendly Frogs	92.0%
Happy Hedgehogs	91.1%
Loyal Lapwings	95.2%
<b>Fair Minded Firs</b>	<b>98.3%</b>
Honest Hawthorns	97.3%
Wise Willows	97.1%
Compassionate Chestnuts	96.6%
Self-Believing Sycamores	94.9%
Resilient Rowans	96.9%
Persevering Poplars	97.3%
Empathetic Elders	95.9%

### PUPIL CERTIFICATES THIS WEEK

#### Role Models

Loyal Lapwings	Tyrique
Fair Minded Firs	Hannah
Honest Hawthorns	Scarlett
Wise Willows	Grayson
Compassionate Chestnuts	Sally
Self-Believing Sycamores	Oliver
Resilient Rowans	McKenzie
Persevering Poplars	Marcus
Empathetic Elders	Kieran

**SLT Praise Visits**

Happy Hedgehogs	Gabriel Aleigha Amelia
Loyal Lapwings	Amelia Leighton Leland
Honest Hawthorns	Layla Thor Bobby
Fair Minded Firs	Nathan Wiktor Paige
Wise Willows	Tyrell Reuben Grace
Compassionate Chestnuts	Kyle Kane Zach
Self-believing Sycamores	Calvin Carla Connor
Resilient Rowans	Brooke Alfie Laiza
Persevering Poplars	Layla Kadie Nadia
Empathetic Elders	Maks Ebony James

**Diary Dates to Remember**

Friday 5 October	UKS2 visit to Eden Camp
Tuesday 9 October	Fire Safety Assembly
Wednesday 10 October	Persevering Poplars Value Assembly
Thursday 11 October	Fire Safety Assembly
Monday 22 October	House Competitions Week
Thursday 25 October	Halloween Disco
Friday 26 October	Attendance Reward Day
Monday 5 November	Attendance Reward Day
Friday 9 November	Individual School Photographs
Monday 12 November	Parents' Evening – 2 pm to 7.30 pm
Wednesday 14 November	GORSE gets healthy at Ryecroft
Friday 16 November	Children In Need

Monday 3 December	House Competition Week
Monday 11 February	House Competition week
Thursday 21 March	Sports Relief
Monday 25 March	House Competition Week
Monday 25 May	House Competition Week

Helen Townsley  
**Principal**

Simon Hayes  
**Assistant Principal**

**Esafety** <https://ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/> There is some useful information on the LSCB website about online safety with some useful tips for parents: <http://www.leedslscb.org.uk/Parents-Carers-Wider-Family/Keeping-children-safe-online> *If you are worried that a child is at risk of harm please contact Leeds Children's Social Work Services on 0113 222 4403*

**Our Designated Officers for Child Protection are Mrs Townsley, Mrs Cattley, Mrs Hodgkin and Mrs France**