

**Monday 12 November 2018****Principal's Message****Dear Parents and Carers,**

A sincere thank you to families of our Empathetic Elders class who came to support their children during the topic assembly on Wednesday morning. This has been the highlight of my week and I am very proud of the quality of the children's performance. The focus on Remembrance and the Armistice Centenary was thoughtful, sensitive and highly informative. Please join me in thanking Mr. Asquith, Mrs. Walton and all class members for the wonderful assembly they led for us. Next sees the turn of Self-Believing Sycamores on Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 9am. They will be presenting their topic assembly, and we would love for families of this class to come along and enjoy the show. Our Catering team will be providing buns for you to enjoy whilst watching the assembly!

We are really looking forward to our GORSE Gets Healthy launch on Wednesday of next week. Our children will be taking part in lots of active events to increase their awareness of the benefits of participating in physical activity whilst also raising money for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Further to this, we know they will have lots of fun.

We are also very keen to support one of our parents, Hollie Kozowski, who has organised a raffle to further support this charity. You can buy the raffle tickets directly from Hollie in the main playground before and after school, tickets are priced at £1 per strip. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 14 November 2018. On Wednesday of this week, our children enjoyed an assembly led by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, whom I would really like to thank for this.

We had a further visitor in school on Wednesday afternoon as the author Hillary Robinson came to speak to children in Years Five and Year Six. This was focused upon the Armistice Centenary also and Hillary was extremely complimentary about the behaviour, courtesy and engagement of our children.

I made reference in a previous newsletter to a session I intend to lead for some of my colleagues on the teaching of swimming. Swimming is such an essential life skill and I am passionate about the need for children to be able to swim for their enjoyment and safety. Additionally, swimming is such a great activity in terms of health and fitness. The session will focus on the basics of swimming and if, as a parent or carer you would like to join this session, please let our office staff know. You would be really welcome. The session will be held in school on Wednesday 21 November at 3.45 pm. As a parent myself, I know how expensive and challenging it can be to book swimming lessons and my hope is that an awareness of the basics will enable us to support our children.

Four of our parents won vouchers to the value of £25 this week connected to our attendance strategy. On this occasion parents were entered into the raffle for each of their children who had 100% attendance for the first half term. There will be 4 parental prizes each half term and this is so that we can value the contribution you make. The prizes at Christmas will focus on most improved attendance and punctuality from Autumn 1 to Autumn 2. Additionally, I wanted to let you know that parents whose children would have been 100%, without the need to attend unavoidable and non-routine hospital appointments, were included in the raffle and these children all received the 100% awards. In all of these circumstances, parents had provided medical appointment cards and letters and we really appreciate this.

Finally, please see below some lovely examples of KS1 homework projects and more will follow next week.

Have a lovely week.

Mrs H Townsley  
**Principal**

**This week's Captains Café visitors**



**Gorse Gets Healthy Day – Wednesday 14 November**

Next Wednesday (14th) is our first Gorse Gets Healthy event. On this day pupils will be completing their sponsored 'Mile Challenge'. Please make sure that your child comes to school in their PE kit (tracksuit bottoms are acceptable in case of cold weather) and trainers or pumps. We are raising money for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Could all sponsor forms/money and any donations please be brought to school as soon as possible and ideally by next Friday at the latest. These can be handed to either class teachers or directly to the office.

**Lateness**

The table below shows the amount of lost learning time per class for the week commencing 22 October 2018 to 26 October 2018. At Ryecroft we do not underestimate the importance of being at school on time, as learning begins as soon as your child enters the classroom. If children are late for school they miss out on essential learning: at the start of the day pupils undertake handwriting activities and promptly begin either their mathematics or English lessons. If your child is even 5 minutes late they have missed out on these vital learning opportunities.

**School starts at 08:45am please arrive at school at least 5 minutes before this time.**

Minutes Late		
Class	Number of Children Late	Minutes Late
Happy Hedgehogs	4	349
Loyal Lapwings	5	361
Fair Minded Firs	7	457
Honest Hawthorns	2	80
Wise Willows	2	174
Compassionate Chestnuts	2	112
Self-Believing Sycamores	6	268
Resilient Rowans	2	195
Persevering Poplars	3	194
Empathetic Elders	0	0
<b>REMEMBER – EVERY MINUTE COUNTS</b>		

**Children in need**

On Friday 16 November we will be supporting the BBC children in need campaign. Children can come to school wearing non-uniform. Please bring a contribution of £1 which will be donated to the children in need fund.



**Congratulations to Fair-Minded Firs  
for the best attendance this week of**

**99.3%**

**Year 1 to Year 6 attendance for 22 October to 26 October was**

**96.4%**

**Year 1 to Year 6 cumulative attendance for the year to date:**

**95.8%**

**Our Target for Year 1 to Year 6 is**

**96%**

**SLT Praise Visits**

Happy Hedgehogs	Codie-Ella Declan Stanley
Loyal Lapwings	Leland Bobby Lena
Honest Hawthorns	Ruby Robby Elliott
Fair Minded Firs	Hannah Evie Colm
Wise Willows	Poppy C Poppy O Gloria
Compassionate Chestnuts	Scarlett Rosie Rebecca
Self-believing Sycamores	Stevie-Michelle Eva Theo
Resilient Rowans	Laiza Tegan Leland
Persevering Poplars	Cian Aurita Sarah-Louise
Empathetic Elders	James Daisy Sam

**Diary Dates to Remember**

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 – non Uniform
Monday 3 December	House Competition Week
Friday 14 December	EYFS Nativity 9.30am & 1.30pm
Friday 21 December	Academy Closes for Christmas
Monday 7 January	Academy Re-Opens at 8.45am
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**