

26 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

RE Spring Term Update

After another term of uncertainty and seven weeks of remote learning it was a real pleasure to welcome our pupils back despite the current lockdown. They have been demonstrating our 3Rs and are fully behind the COVID safety measures introduced. Thank you also for your support in making the phased return and testing most successful.

COVID Testing

Our arrangements for the mass testing programme ran very smoothly, with only three positive tests from the thousands completed in school across the two-week period. This enabled us to take swift action and break the chain of transmission from the asymptomatic testing.

All pupils and staff have now transitioned to home testing, which we advise you continue through the Easter break and certainly ahead of the return on Monday 12th April.

Summer Term PE Lessons

As we enter the Summer term, with weather hopefully improving, pupils should adhere to official PE kit items only. Pupils should no longer arrive to school in PE kit, but full school uniform and change into PE kit for their lesson. This is a change, for some year groups, and all pupils must follow this more familiar and expected arrangement.

Year 11

We have already shared with parents' information regarding the awarding of grades this summer and we held our online parents' evening using 'School Cloud'. It is important that all Year 11 pupils continue to revise and prepare over the Easter break, the topics and units their teachers have guided them through. All students have received a booklet advising them on revision they can work on over Easter. Details of the tests and assessments students will be conducting, in the following weeks of the summer term, will be shared in due course.



Wellbeing

If you need help and support over Easter or just want to see what is on offer across Hyndburn for families and young people visit our website where there are a number of useful links: <http://www.rhyddings.co.uk/pastoral-care/>

Year 9 Options

Pupils have been focusing on their futures this week, with interactive lessons in PSHE and IT, looking at their post 16 options, careers, qualifications and creating their 'Start' profiles, a specialist application that supports their window on careers, college courses and much more. Please do speak with your son or daughter and get them to show you their profile.

All pupils and parents of Year 9 will receive our options booklet, through the post and via student email, for Easter reading, and after the break they will receive their option forms.

Haworth Street Redevelopment

The building work at Haworth Street is gathering pace and the infrastructure is complete with significant progress being made on the new specialist science block, dining room, SEN and Pastoral accommodation, sports hall and classroom upgrades. We are due to leave Hameldon at the end of the summer term in July and this will require an exceptional closure of the school for the physical move. These dates will be confirmed at the start of the summer term once plans are finalised in conjunction with LCC. See their most recent [Press Release](#) with aerial images.

Looking Forwards

We will have to wait and see how and when restrictions may be lifted, but that won't stop us staging parents' evenings for all year groups next term and our superb 'Summer Show', where our pupils showcase their performing arts and musical talents. Of course, these may well need to stay online for a while longer.

Save the date – Year 7 parents' evening, Thursday 22nd April 4.30-7pm. Details will follow after the holiday.



Returning 12th April

We are expecting a government review during Easter, on the current national lockdown measures and those relating to how schools must operate for when we return. I won't attempt to predict what changes, if any, may be made. However, anything significant will be shared via a parental update using our text link letter service.

I hope the weather is kind to us, that we can look forward to lighter evenings and better weather. Whatever we are safely able to do I hope you enjoy the Easter Break.

Yours sincerely

Mr A K Williams
Headteacher



Curriculum News

World Book Day

In 2021 World Book Day, just like everything else, was different. We adapted to make sure that World Book Day sends a powerful and positive message about books and reading, even in lockdown.

Staff and pupils at Rhyddings have celebrated World Book Day with its own take on the ITV singing contest, by hosting The Masked Reader. The popular Saturday night show sees celebrities dress up in colourful costumes before taking to the stage to sing. The panel then guess who is behind the mask based on clues.

Staff at Rhyddings have adapted the concept and masked their faces and distorted their voices while reading. Pupils then guessed which teacher was the reader. We had a fantastic response to the Masked Reader and a massive congratulations to our winners of the quiz: Amaan K, Anaam H, Kendra S.

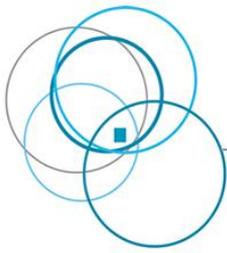
Over the weeks, leading up to World Book Day, we captured members of staff reading during their lunch breaks [#readinglunch](#). In the special bonus round, pupils could then guess who the lunchtime reader was.

In addition to the quiz, we held a character design competition and received some fabulous entries from staff and pupils. The pupil winners of the competition were: Holly C in Year 7 and Jamie H in Year 8, who both submitted very impressive entries. A huge well done for your efforts!

Mrs Stevens, Lead Teacher of English said, "Schools do a lot for World Book Day every year, but this year it's fallen in the final week of the school closures. Reading is at the heart of teaching, it's so important to every pupils' development. Especially with libraries and book shops being closed, we need to make sure we are still giving our pupils access to all these fantastic books that are out there."

Accelerated Reader/Library Lessons

At Rhyddings we use the Accelerated Reader program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives children, teachers, and librarians feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.



The benefits are:

- Reading stimulates part of a child's brain to grow and be more active.
- Reading can widen a child's vocabulary and comprehension ability.
- Through reading, children develop their empathy, build confidence, and expand their imagination.

Reading for pleasure has been associated not only with increases in reading attainment, but also with:

- writing ability,
- text comprehension,
- grammar,
- breadth of vocabulary,
- attitudes,
- self-confidence as a reader,
- pleasure in reading in later life,
- general knowledge,
- a better understanding of other cultures, community etc...

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

The Star Reading Tests for Year 7 and 8 are going to be conducted again after Easter. This will give us an up to date reading age for the pupils.

Each Friday we generate a word count report for each pupil in Year 7 and 8, with the results recorded on the Accelerated Reader leader board.

The English department posts a weekly update of the top-scoring students on the leaderboard. These readers will receive a positive postcard home, see example below:

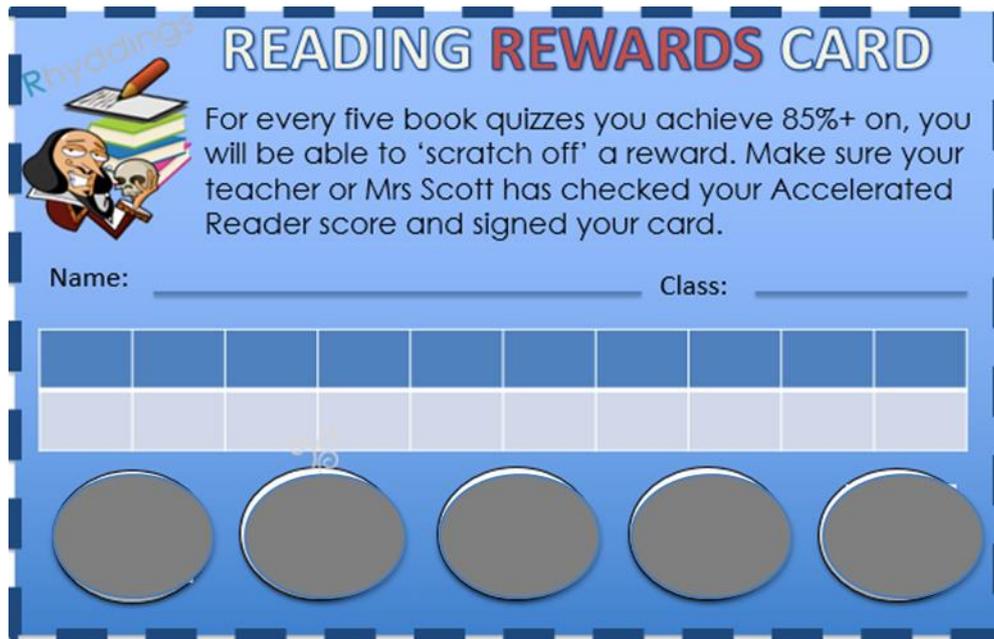
332,535 words

Weekly Word Count -

	Name	Word Count	Class	Teacher
1	Akash HR	639,632	7I/EN3	Mrs Bleasdale
2	Charlie D	107,578	7I/EN3	Mrs Bleasdale
3	Ella A	75,794	8C/EN1	Mrs Addison / Mrs O'Loughlin
4	Kane Mc	65,585	8C/EN1	Mrs Addison / Mrs O'Loughlin
5	Harry P	49,889	8C/EN3	Mrs Addison / Mrs Scott
6	Scarlett H	17,858	8C/EN2	Mrs O'Loughlin
7	Owen H	10,065	7I/EN3	Mrs Bleasdale
8	Caitlin K	2,758	8C/EN1	Mrs Addison / Mrs O'Loughlin
9	Jessica Mc	1,598	8C/EN1	Mrs Addison / Mrs O'Loughlin
10	Eshal F	1,410	7I/EN3	Mrs Bleasdale



This week we started rolling out a new reward card for library lessons. When a pupil passes 5 quizzes on Accelerated Reader (by achieving a score above 85%) they can scratch off a reward. Achieving all 5 rewards on a card leads to a pupil earning a special treat before the summer holidays.



Pupils can access the quiz from home through the following link:

<https://ukhosted74.renlearn.co.uk/1895556/>

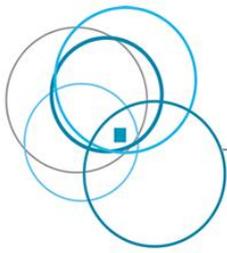
Finally, there are a variety of PDF versions of books in the Library folder on Teams. These are divided into separate folders depending on a pupil's tested reading age.

Performing Arts

A particular mention for Year 9 - Ben B, Luca D and Roan W who started their own production company "Cheemler Productions" by collaborating on videos for their Drama work over lockdown. They edited and recorded them via the use of technology and produced some very funny and creative pieces together, going above and beyond the lesson time! Well done boys.

Music

See the song writing lyrics from our Year 7 pupils along with details of instrumental and vocal lessons in this [linked document](#)



Food Technology

Despite lockdown you have continued to bake and cook at home. I have been blown away with your creations. Special mention to Joe W in Year 7 who has been baking every week - please see his superb Easter Eggstravaganza.

Congratulations to Year 7 who entered the Baked Bean Challenge. I was blown away by your creativity and presentation skills. A sample of entries from Azaan K, Braeden M and Scarlett K. Well done everyone!

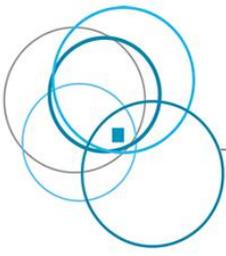


Spanish

The challenge for Key Stage 3 this half term was a "Spain Quest" – finding facts out about Spanish cities, food and culture. There were so many correct answer sheets returned, the winner had to be a prize draw. Congratulations to Marcia R in Year 9! Her answers were all correct and she will receive her prize after the Easter holidays.

Charity Fundraiser

7X5 'Charity Challenge' to date has seen the pupils raise £176 for NHS charities, this includes the £111 of sponsorship for Scarlaa's walk from Oswaldtwistle to Burnley.



The charity challenge logo designed by Sanah I

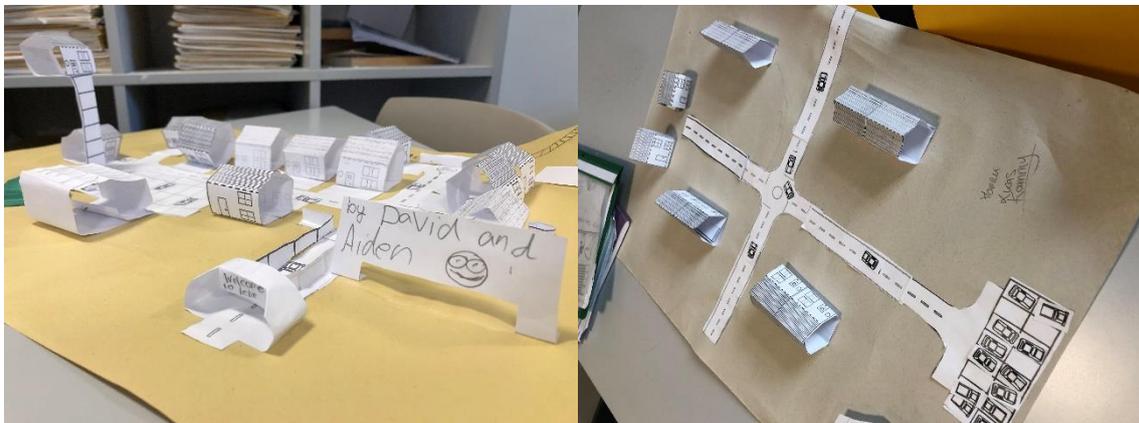


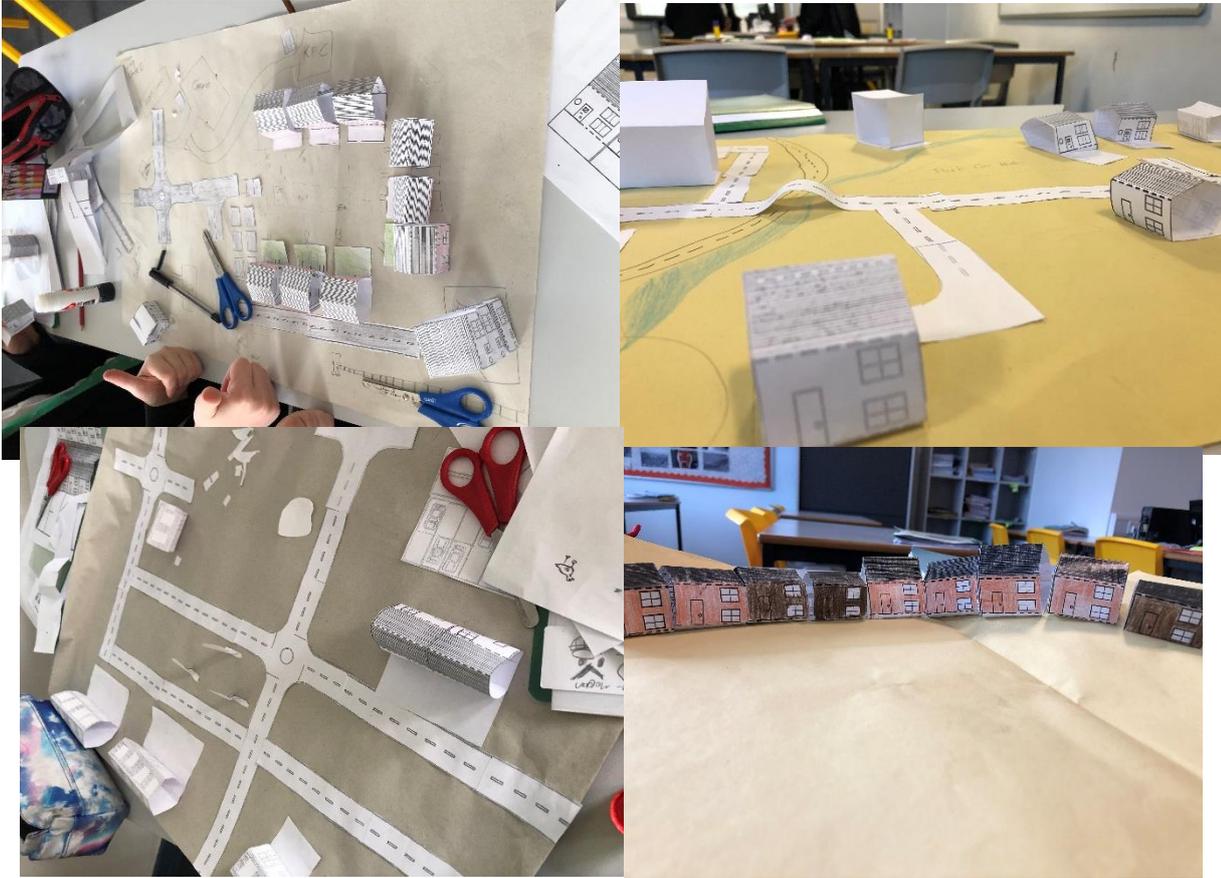
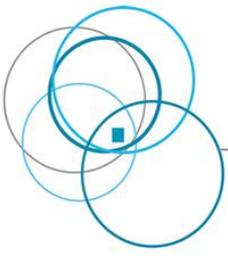
Well done 7X5 for showing our values in action

Geography

During remote learning Year 7 started their settlement topic, learning all about where, why and how settlements grow. They learned all the theory behind the different components of a settlement, where these are located, how they are linked and what makes a good settlement design.

When we returned to the classroom the students became Town Planners, designing not only a functional housing estate but the settlement surrounding it. They had to calculate costs of the project, choose site, amenities, and target market. The pupils had to think carefully about what facilities a community would need, what traffic calming measures, green spaces etc. and create their very own model settlement.





We hope you all have a lovely Easter Break

Respect Yours Determination Neighbourly Supportive
Honesty Democracy Inspire Generous