



# RIPLY ENDOWED CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Ripley Endowed Primary School,**  
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15th September 2023

Dear Parent and Carers,

As we come to the end of the second week of the academic year, I just wanted to write to you to on behalf of the school staff to thank you for your positivity as we commence another hugely exciting year.

Please do not underestimate the impact of calls, emails, face-to-face and social media comments that praise the school: as you are aware, teaching is a challenging job however the most rewarding, and so we are lucky to have staff in school who are dedicated, passionate and work tirelessly to ensure your children are safe secure, happy and learning.

We are also aware that on occasion, we do not always get things right and this openness and transparency ensures we can all work together to overcome issues and positively resolve situations thus being successful. Thank you to those who may have had issues for raising them with immediate effect so that we, as a school can action from the offset in the best interests of your children.

I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing you all on the gate (blistering heat and torrential rain so far!), chatting, hearing about your weekends or holidays and even just the passing smiles. Although I am not in your school every day, I will be several times a week, which is the bonus of having only three schools now. Building relationships with you all is so incredibly important to me as your Executive Headteacher and so please know, I will be out in all weathers to greet you as you drop off and collect your children.

When the weather is poor, we will open our gates early so that your children do not start the day wet and, just as we want our children to be safe, we do not want you to worry if you are stuck in traffic and late to pick up/drop off. Although prompt attendance for children is imperative, you arriving at school safely is a priority of ours and so please call and we will ensure your children are supervised until your arrival.

I continue on my mission to improve road safety outside our school and have already this term commenced further action on safe crossings. We are also working closely with external agencies to support and educate our children on many safeguarding aspects of life to ensure they are not only safe in school, but outside also.

With regards to the curriculum, daily learning walks have evidenced superb work completed by the children and lessons taught have been engaging, fun and full of challenge.

Communication is always something we look to continually improve, as we fully understand this makes family life and planning easier. With this in mind, we have made several improvements in our

systems and processes including; increased admin hours, same-day responses, email chains, shared staff calendars for scheduling meetings within a 48-hour period of request (where possible), social media platforms updated by all staff, regular texts/letters, and the building of an admin team. I am delighted that, attached to this letter is the full calendar to the end of term in December. You will receive this for Spring at the end of term enabling you to plan until summer.

All our federation schools are now judged as 'good' by Ofsted and so we look forward to Kettlesing's re-inspection this academic year. At Beckwithshaw, we await our amazing banners and will be releasing a media article soon due to the timing of the release of the report at the start of summer. With this in mind, we have already scheduled our 2023 Open Days. Listening to your thoughts and comments, this year they will be on different days so that we get a higher volume of potential new families. These dates will be posted on our social media and flyers sent therefore we would be hugely grateful if they could be shared far and wide: worth of mouth is key to the success of any school setting.

As ever, if there is anything we can do to support you, your family and your children then please do not hesitate to contact us and once again, let us work together to ensure this year is not only good, but outstanding!

Have a super weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Kirkman', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Miss V Kirkman  
Execute Headteacher