



Newsletter July 2014

Dear Parents

The expression 'Phew, what a scorcher!' usually applies to the weather. Well, maybe it does for part of this week but it certainly does for this past year. SOOOOOOO much has been achieved by so many pupils in so many different ways it is impossible to list them all but they include; highest school attendance for many years (44 pupils with 100% for the year), the choir performing at the Royal Albert Hall, Academy status, sporting successes, increasing academic levels as pupils move on to Freman, staff academic achievements, year 7 France trip, year 8 enterprise, discovery of hidden musical talents in year 5 and 6, continues monies raised for charity..... and more, much more.

To everyone who has made any contribution, and that is every pupil, parent and member of staff – THANK YOU for making 2013-14 so successful.

For the school, the year has been very challenging particularly with staff illness and staff moving on to take up new opportunities but we have managed.

Today we are saying goodbye to Mr Nicol, Mr Smith and Mrs Collins. Mr Nicol is moving to the south coast to teach and Mr Smith is taking up an appointment as deputy head of a Lower School in Bedfordshire. We wish them both well. Mrs Collins has been with us for this term and I would have loved her to stay longer but she has an opportunity to extend her own art related career that she couldn't refuse.

My thanks also go to Mrs Ruane who has been covering Mrs Shore-Nye's absence. We have appointed a new linguist for September and will be well placed for year 8 to learn French and German next year. Mrs Shore-Nye has decided to retire and to continue to be in Scotland with her family. I very much hope to visit her during the holidays and bring back news of her next term.

Over the summer the look of the school from the front car park will start to change. New windows are being put into many classrooms so they should, not only look better but also be cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. This is the first phase of giving the school's outer appearance a fresh look.

Whilst I am looking forward to the next six weeks I am also looking forward to next term and welcoming the new intake and welcoming back existing pupils.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Tuesday 2nd September is for year 5s only
 Wednesday 3rd September is for all years

My best wishes to you all for a good summer. To those who are leaving, I hope a little bit of Ralph Sadleir goes with you and I look forward to hearing of your successes in the future.

Liz Hinton

Dates for your Diaries

Autumn Term 2014

Inset Day	Monday 1 st September
1 st Half Term Year 5's only	Tues 2nd Sept – Fri 24 th Oct
1 st Half Term Whole School	Weds 3rd Sept – Fri 24 th Oct
Half Term Break	Mon 27 th Oct – Fri 31 st Oct
Inset Day	Monday 3rd November
2 nd Half Term	Tues 4th Nov – Fri 19 th Dec
Occasional Day	Friday 5 th December

(Please note that on Occasional Day, the school is closed)

Terms Ends	Friday 19 th December at 2.30pm
Christmas Break	Mon 22nd Dec – Fri 2 nd Jan 2015

Spring Term 2015

1 st Half Term	Mon 5 th Jan – Fri 13 th Feb
Half Term Break	Mon 16 th Feb – Fri 20 th Feb
2 nd Half Term	Mon 23 rd Feb – Thurs 2 nd April
Easter Break	Fri 3 rd April – Fri 17 th April
Inset Day	Mon 20 th April
Term ends	Thursday 2 nd April at 2.30pm

Summer Term 2015

1 st Half Term	Tues 21 st April – Fri 22 nd May
May Day Holiday	Monday 4 th May
Half Term Break	Mon 25 th May – Fri 29 th May
2 nd Half Term	Mon 1 st June – Fri 17th July
Term ends	Friday 17 th July at 2.30pm

DINNER MONEY

Autumn Term 2014

Per Day - £2.25

Per Week - £11.25

1st Half Term - £87.75 Year 5 only

1st Half Term - £85.50 Year 6,7 and 8

2nd Half Term - £74.25

If your child is going on one of the various school trips please deduct the appropriate amount

Cheques payable to

Ralph Sadleir School

Please put the child's name and 'dinner money' on the back of cheques.

Please refer to our website to read our policy on School Dinners Bad Debt

<http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/school-dinners/>

Changes to meal patterns

A meal pattern has been set for your child.

Any changes to the pre-defined patterns must be notified to the school office **before registration** otherwise you will be charged for the school meal.

Please contact the office if you have any queries.

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Attendance

If your child is absent from school it is essential that you telephone the school before 8.45am.

If we do not hear from you, your child's absence may be marked as unauthorised.

Congratulations to Molly A and Jack F – our 2013/2014 David Jones Memorial Prize Winners

The David Jones Memorial Prize is given in Recognition of Commitment and Service to the Community and Spirit of Ralph Sadleir School.

Our winners have been nominated by staff and students.

Please visit our website gallery page to view photographs of our other winners this year. Well done to you all.



Junior Maths Challenge Success 2014

About 50 Year 8 pupils took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Over 240 000 pupils from across the UK sat this challenge with the top 6% receiving a gold certificate. Congratulations to the following Ralph Sadleir pupils who were awarded certificates:

GOLD

Joe L (best in school)
Kira B
Ben G

BRONZE

Olivia C
Ryan L
Charlie M
Matt A

Rohan L
Gemma P
George B
Hannah B

SILVER

Holly R
Alex A
James C
Fran N

George T

Molly A
Zac H
Dean N
Harry W
Ryan W
Sam F

Kelsey D

Robert S

Introducing our new staff for September!

Mrs L Newbrook – KS3 English Teacher

I have enjoyed teaching at several secondary schools over the years, starting in London, moving to Hertfordshire and then to Bedfordshire. On my two visits to Ralph Sadleir School I have been hugely impressed by the friendliness of the pupils and staff as well as by all the activities going on there. Now I am looking forward to joining Mrs Knapman in the English department in September and getting to know everyone much better.

Mrs J Frederiksen - Modern Foreign Languages Teacher

I will be joining the staff at Ralph Sadleir School in September as a MFL teacher. My main foreign languages are German and French, but I am passionate about all languages and can even teach a little Danish if ever needed.

As well as being a teacher, I am married with two children and have a little dog called Maggie.

Back to when I was at school myself, I have always embraced new languages and I hope my enthusiasm will pass to you. Learning languages has opened many doors to me during my professional career. As a result I have travelled extensively, have met some very interesting people and have been to some fascinating places along the way. The first time you make yourself understood to a native speaker in a foreign language is a very rewarding experience and one which stays with you.

I am really looking forward to teaching you German and French soon. Have a great summer holiday and see you in September.

Mrs R Odrich-Damallie – Year 5 Tutor

Hello to all at Ralph Sadleir School. I will be joining the school in the coming academic year. Originally from Germany, I spent one year at Boarding School in England, then joined my parents in Tokyo, Japan to take my Abitur (German equivalent to A Levels) and finally returned to the UK to study Economics at London University.

Prior to becoming a teacher I had a career in Advertising working with a number of well-known brands such as Airmiles, Whiskas and Nescafe. I currently teach Year 5 at Summercroft Primary School in Bishops Stortford, which I joined four years ago after completing my Teacher Training Course in Year 6 at Hatfield Heath Community School. I really love working with young people, helping them to become independent learners and enabling everyone to realise their potential. Joining Ralph Sadleir School is a wonderful opportunity to work in an environment where learning is fun, challenging but above all rewarding.

Mrs C Watson – Teacher of Art

Having already met many of the pupils I will be teaching next year, I am really excited about the artistic ability they have demonstrated. I hope that throughout our time in the Art department we will continue to build on this through many exciting projects such as clay, mixed media and drawing amongst others.

I am looking forward to sharing my expertise with the pupils, and hope that my love for the subject, combined with my 11 years of teaching experience, will enthuse and help develop the pupils' skills.

I hope to develop strong relationships between, the pupils, parents and myself and I am really pleased to have been given the opportunity to work at Ralph Sadleir.

Mr I Pottinger – Teacher of Geography

I am very pleased to be joining Ralph Sadleir and am looking forward to teaching Geography to all year groups in the next academic year and to bringing some of my own studies and experiences into the lessons.

So, a little about myself. I have been teaching Year 5 in a primary school but have decided to move across to teaching Geography, to make better use of my qualifications. I have an A Level in Geography, a degree (BSc.) in Environmental Science and a Masters (MSc.) in Environmental Technology. I have worked as a Renewable Energy Manager, as a Research Associate in the Centre for Energy Policy and Technology at Imperial College London and as a Guest Research Fellow at Nagasaki University, Japan.

I enjoy and have spent time trekking in the rainforest (Thailand) and in the desert (Utah, USA). I am married and have three sons, whom I very much enjoy watching play football.

Year 6 have been making board games in Maths for Mrs Hanson to take to Africa to help in her 'Talk Maths' project.



'When we made our board games we were not only using Maths skills, but English as well. The games involved Algebra which we had been learning and revising the week before. When we wrote out the instructions for our games we had to bear in mind that the children in Africa didn't speak English as their first language, so we had to simplify our instructions. We had great fun making these games and hope that the African children will enjoy playing them.'

Heidi E, D6

The Ralph Sadleir Experience

Here are some of the thoughts and advice from Year 5 after completing their first year at Ralph Sadleir School.

- When I first came to this school, I was a bit scared and nervous but once I settled in I felt fine and I've made loads of friends.
- We have cross curricular days which have fun themes, but break and lunch time are my favourite parts of the day because I get to play with my friends and if it is hot we get to go onto the field. Also at break time, we can go to the tuck shop which is a place in the dining room.
- In year 5 you get to go to Clacton Beach. You've probably never been there before but it is a wonderful place. Sometimes you can get an ice cream. You also get a tour around the R.N.L.I station which stands: for The Royal National Lifeboat Institute.
- In games you do lots of different sports. First you do rugby then football. In the next term you move onto cricket, rounders and swimming.
- When I first came to Ralph Sadleir I felt really welcome and had no worries about school even though I used to be shy in my old school.
- My favourite lessons are Science, Geography and Maths. They're my favourite lessons because I want to be a seismologist when I'm older. My favourite lesson is science because you get to do loads of fun and exciting experiments.
- I have really enjoyed being in year 5. I will remember being in Year 5 for a long time and I hope next year's Year 5's enjoy it too.
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From Students of Year 5

Science Club



On Tuesday 8th July fifteen Year 6 and 7 students from Science Club went to Duxford the “East of England Big Bang Science Fair” to show case their work which included projects about the Morse Code, Renewable energy and Cells. There were lots of interesting activities and exciting talks. This is what some of the students thought....

This occasion to go to the Big Bang Fair was absolutely brilliant I loved talking to the judges and visitors I wish to go again sometime – Joshua.

I personally really enjoyed the Big Bang Festival. It allowed us to be able to show what we’ve made over the past weeks. Also it was a good opportunity to adapt and rearrange our speeches to the judges and other passing visitors. We learned a huge amount of interesting information about different aspects of science – Alena.

I really enjoyed this rare opportunity to learn more science which is my favourite subject. This gave us a chance to show our projects and see what other schools do. We got to talk to a variety of different judges. Sadly, Ralph Sadleir didn’t win any prizes this time but we all enjoyed ourselves and did our best. We want to enter again next year - Cameron A

Mrs Bingham would like to thank all the staff and students who made it such an fun and enjoyable day!



PSHE - "Innocent until Proven Guilty!"

Recently in PSHE, Sharron Cox, a Magistrate working in Hertfordshire, talked to our Year 8s about the "Justice System in England and Wales". Pupils were given the opportunity to discuss various cases and reflect on the implications of a trial in the court room.

Pupils thought reflectively about the consequences of a real case of assault on a bus driver and demonstrated huge interest in the subject of fairness and justice.

Pupils argued over the correct sentence for the defendant and were surprised to hear that in law "Ignorance is no defence". Also, Year 8s learned that simply being with the wrong crowd means that you are as guilty as the person who took the lead in the crime. This is known as "Joint Enterprise" in the legal system.

Finally, young people, from as young as 10 years old, can be sentenced to a maximum of 2 years custody in a Young Offenders Institute which can be anywhere in the country! A good reason to stay on the right side of the law, Year 8s!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATIONS

Herts County Council is working to promote free school meals and educational benefits to make sure that as many eligible children and families as possible get the support they are entitled to.

Families are able to apply in any of the following ways:

Online: at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals.

Smartphone: using the Looking Local app available from app stores.

Digital TV: The Community Channel – press the red button

Wii/Xbox/PS3: at www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect

Phone: 0300 123 4084



Over the summer it is important to keep reading. It is your opportunity to read for pleasure, to choose whatever you like! If you search 'reading' on the school website you will find further information about books you might like to read.

There is also the Ralph Sadleir incentive: The Summer Reading Challenge, run by your local library, is a great way to keep reading over the summer. Points for their reading. All we ask is that you read and to provide a photo of themselves reading. House Points will be rewarded as follows:

5 House Points per Book

4 Books = 20 points + 10 bonus points

6 books = 30 points + 20 bonus points

Please look at our website to view a list of titles to give you some ideas of what you might like to read - <http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/reading-and-the-library/>

The website <http://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk> provides a useful synopsis of these books. So whether it is a classic you have been promising yourself you will read or a new release, why not lose yourself in a book this summer.

Our Website has had two useful additions recently. The Parent Handbook has been updated and now sits within the 'Parents' section of the website. We have also published a guide to helping your child with Maths, which sits within the Year 5 section and the Maths section. Please take a look; we hope you will find these documents useful.

Sports Update

On Thursday 26th June our two District champions in High 5's netball and Boys U11 Kwik Cricket took part in their respective County finals.

The Netball players had a real treat when meeting England Netball star Lindsay Keable before they competed providing real inspiration to our pupils.

The Cricket team drew Morgans JMI and Arnett Hills and made the perfect start restricting the opposition with some excellent fielding and bowling. Winning both of our group matches meant we had won our group and progressed to the quarter finals to face Commonswood. This was a tough game with both sides bowling well, but Ralph Sadleir turned on the style with the bat and outscored their opponents to reach the semi-final.

The semi-final was against William Ransom, a school with a lot of experience at this level. We bowled first and restricted the runs well, but failed to take wickets which are so crucial in this format. Chasing 50 runs to win from 8 overs, we knew it was well within reach looking at the quality in our side, but sadly we lost wickets at steady intervals which kept halting any progress we made, giving away 8 wickets in total which ultimately cost us the match, seeing us finish in the top four within Hertfordshire.

Every player should be very pleased with their performances as they have all contributed hugely to their teams. I was very proud of their determination, team spirit and conduct throughout and I have no doubt these pupils will go on to do big things in the future.