Dear Mums, Dads, Carers, staff, governors, friends & colleagues

We have had a fabulous half term with many visitors complimenting your children and our school.

Visitors:
- Prospective parents
- UNICEF
- A government minister
- Governors
- Director of Lewisham Learning
- Head teachers from Lewisham schools

Your children are feeling safe, happy and challenged and we hope you have a wonderful, relaxing and restful half term break.

Mrs Maharsingam
Headteacher

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

Dear Parents/Carers

On the 12th February, and before the counting of votes, the Governing Body received an update regarding the Parent Governor election. The Board agreed that the election should be run again, in order that they could be assured that the voting process had been followed correctly. This decision has been recorded in the Board minutes.

The vote will run again on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th February in the main playground. 8:45-9:15 pm 3:30-4:00 pm

- Each parent/carer has one vote
- The number of votes available to parents/ carers/ guardians, is not determined by the number of children in the school.
- The ballot papers will be handed to each parent or carer wishing to vote
- A register will be taken of voting parents/carers

HEADTEACHER TEACHER DROP IN

Don’t forget I am available every Tuesday 9.00-9.30am and 5.30pm – 6.30 pm

Please come and discuss any concerns or good news you may have with me.
No appointment necessary just drop in and have a chat.
Thank you to those parents who have come and discussed their concerns with me I have found this communication extremely helpful.
We are committed to improving our engagement with all parents and carers.

Rathfern Primary School
Rathfern Road, Catford
London SE6 4NL
E: admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk
T: 020 8690 3759
Debate Mate UDL round 1

Debate mate league has started. Rathfern attended their first UDL round at Rotherhithe School in Surrey Quays last week and won all four of their debates.

The motions for the two debates were:
This house would reduce summer holidays to 3 weeks, and
This house would ban pets.

The children had to debate against other teams using their debating skills as both proposition and opposition. The children enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to their next round on the 14th March.

Article 12: Pupil voice

Voice of a child ambassadors meeting – Civic Suite Catford

On behalf of Rathfern’s Leading Citizens Safe Guarding Committee, Mylca-Audrey attended a meeting at the Civic Suite in Catford regarding online safety. She talks about her experience below:

“On Tuesday 12th February I was invited to the civic suite to attend the Voice of a Child meeting that was hosted by the Lewisham Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB). The event was based on online safety. We were asked questions such as:
What are the issues about online safety?
Solutions on how to stop the issue.
How to spread awareness about safety online?
Where to go for advice?
What could the LSCB improve on?
How are you going to make a difference?

We contributed our ideas and had lots of fun but most importantly I learnt that young people don’t usually play or watch things that are appropriate for their age, parents aren’t always aware of the affect the games and videos can have on the children. Personally, my favourite part was the tantalizing pizza and drinks that we were served, they were delicious.

I was delighted to have attended this event, it was a great experience and I was very joyful that my ideas will help young people stay safe online and will now share the information with my peers and teachers at school so we can make even more of a difference regarding this issue.

STAY SAFE ONLINE
Mylca-Audrey year 5

Article 16 – The right to privacy
An Unwell Child

When your child is unwell, it can be hard deciding whether to keep them off school. A few simple guidelines can help.

Not every illness needs to keep your child from school. If you keep your child away from school, be sure to inform the school on the first day of their absence.

Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself the following questions.

Is your child well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.

Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.

Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Common conditions

If your child is ill, it's likely to be due to one of a few minor health conditions. Whether you send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. This guidance can help you make that judgement.

Remember: if you're concerned about your child's health, consult a health professional.

Cough and cold. - A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school, visit the GP and return to school 24 hours after they start to feel better. If your child has a more severe and long-lasting cough, consult your GP. They can give guidance on whether the child should stay off school.

Raised temperature. - If your child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school. They can return 24 hours after they start to feel better.

Rash. - Rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses, such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions shouldn't attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP or practice nurse before sending them to school.

Headache. - A child with a minor headache doesn't usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms, such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.

Vomiting and diarrhoea. - Children with these conditions should be kept off school. They can return 48 hours after their symptoms disappear. Most cases of vomiting or diarrhoea get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP.

Sore throat. - A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school. If it's accompanied by a raised temperature, the child should stay at home.

Conjunctivitis. - Children with conjunctivitis need to be kept off school until antibiotic eye ointment has been applied for 24 hours.

Impetigo. – Children with impetigo need to be kept off school until there is no more blistering or crusting, or until 48 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started.

Tell the school: - It’s important to inform the school if your child is going to be absent. On the first day of your child's illness, telephone the school to tell them that your child will be staying at home. The school may ask about the nature of the illness and how long you expect the absence to last.

If it becomes clear that your child will be away for longer than expected, phone the school as soon as possible to explain this.

This information was sourced from the NHS Choices Website.
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Outstanding achievement is linked with outstanding attendance.

Whole School Attendance 95%

Congratulations to all classes achieving over 97%. Telegraph Hill achieved 99.4% Wells Park & Ravensbourne are joint with 98.4%, Edith Nesbit, Blythe Hill, Friendly Gardens and Mountsfield Park also achieved 97%+

LATES / ABSENCES.

If your child is late please ensure they come into the office to collect a Late Card, this is to ensure they are recorded as ‘present’ for the day.

If your child is absent please ring the office in the morning so that we are informed of a reason. ANY requests for absence (holidays etc) will need a form filled in and authorised by the headteacher.

PUNCTUALITY and ATTENDANCE

Lost learning time has a detrimental impact upon your child’s learning progress. Effective schools have excellent attendance and punctuality.
Thank you to those parents who are punctual - I do notice you!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>EFFECTIVE LEARNERS</th>
<th>LEADING CITIZENS</th>
<th>ACT OF KINDNESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ladywell</td>
<td>Boluwatife</td>
<td>Eva</td>
<td>Maryam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blythe Hill</td>
<td>Ethan</td>
<td>Thirikshan</td>
<td>Keelan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverview</td>
<td>Hector</td>
<td>Qadriyah</td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn</td>
<td>Demari</td>
<td>Remi</td>
<td>Oumar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravensbourne</td>
<td>Maddi</td>
<td>Steffan</td>
<td>Rio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manor Park</td>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>Shanuki</td>
<td>Kourtney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackheath</td>
<td>Tofunmi</td>
<td>Sophie</td>
<td>Ailsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wells Park</td>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>Lateef</td>
<td>Oliwia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinbrook</td>
<td>Jesse</td>
<td>Naomi</td>
<td>Kal-el</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beckenham Place</td>
<td>Abdul</td>
<td>Eshe</td>
<td>Patricia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hornimans</td>
<td>Cyanne</td>
<td>Karen</td>
<td>Jai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly Gardens</td>
<td>Artyom</td>
<td>Melissa</td>
<td>Aayush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edith Nesbit</td>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>Lolo</td>
<td>Raheem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegraph Hill</td>
<td>Himayel</td>
<td>Nyasia</td>
<td>Isaac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forster Park</td>
<td>Lexie</td>
<td>Jessie</td>
<td>Gabrielle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountsfield</td>
<td>Kaycey</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Cillian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NURSERY TIMINGS
We would like to make parents aware that in order to safeguard our children, parents are requested not to enter the school until 11.45 for collection and 12.45 drop off. It is our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our children.

Year 4 Swimming
ALL children MUST bring in their swimming kits EVERY Thursday. They must have a swimming kit, swimming hat and a towel.

If children are unable to swim, parents are advised to write a note to the class teacher with a reason.