

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, it is hard to believe just how much we have packed into this final half term. Looking back, I do wonder how we managed to fit it all in! This final week has perfectly captured what makes our school so special. We have laughed together, celebrated achievements and today gathered for our Leavers' Worship as we prepare to say goodbye to our brilliant Year 6 children.



These events have given us the chance to come together as a whole school community to celebrate, reflect and finish on a real high.

Gigglebox Production!

A huge well done to our Year 5 and Year 6 children for their fantastic production of *Gigglebox*. It was packed with humour and energy and had the audience laughing from beginning to end. We are incredibly proud of every child who took part and grateful to the staff and families who helped make it such a success.

Sports Week and Sports Day

Sport has been a huge focus this half term and the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our annual Sports Week. Children experienced a variety of activities including cricket, Bhangra dancing and Accrington Stanley's Joy of Movement programme. The week focused not only on developing sporting skills but also on teamwork, perseverance, leadership and having fun. Sports Day was, once again, a wonderful success. The

atmosphere was fantastic and it was lovely to see children encouraging one another and celebrating success together. Congratulations to Fire Team, who proudly lifted the winning trophy at the end of the week!



We also came together to support England by wearing red and white during the World Cup fixtures. This gave us opportunities to discuss determination and how we respond positively to both winning and losing.

OPAL – Play Continues to Thrive

One of the highlights of the half term was welcoming our OPAL assessor back into school. They were genuinely blown away by the progress that has been made. Walking around the school grounds and seeing children fully engaged across every area of the site was something we are incredibly proud of. Whether children were building dens, exploring water and sand, creating role-play worlds, constructing, problem-solving or simply enjoying being outdoors with friends, there was a real sense of creativity, independence and joy.

Willow Des

We were delighted to welcome Des into school this half term. Children worked alongside him to improve our growing willow areas, create natural play resources, build dens and even make their own musical instruments. The additional willow branches have already become a super resource for outdoor play. Willow Des will return in October to work with the children to create a large dried willow structure within our grounds. This is something we are all very excited about.

Trips, Visits and Learning Beyond the Classroom

This half term has been packed with more memorable experiences.

Reception enjoyed a visit to Mrs Dowson's Farm and were fantastic ambassadors for the school throughout the day.

Year 1 visited Rishton Library and also enjoyed an exciting visit to the airport.

Year 3 and 4 travelled back in time through an Ancient Egyptian themed day at Bolton Museum.

Year 3 and Year 4 visited Westholme School to watch *Mary Poppins*.

Year 5 visited Blackburn Museum and enjoyed exploring an exhibition linked to printing and artwork.

Year 6 visited Accrington and Rossendale College and rounded off their primary school journey with a very well-deserved day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Children in **Years 5 and 6** also successfully completed Bikeability training, developing important cycling and road safety skills.

Art Week Our Art Week theme this year was Joy, and the creativity displayed across school was a joy to see.



Children explored different techniques, materials and ideas, producing work they were incredibly proud of. Here are Year 1 children with their colour mixing work.

Rocksteady Rocks Again! We recently enjoyed another fantastic Rocksteady concert.

Our young musicians performed brilliantly and demonstrated how much confidence and skill they have developed throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of our young rock stars.

Information about lessons and costs will be sent home in September for any children interested in joining and creating their very own band.



Learning About Faith and the Wider World

We were delighted to welcome Imran into school this term, who worked with children to help them learn more about Islam.



Opportunities like this help our children develop understanding, respect and appreciation for different beliefs and cultures and form an important part of our wider curriculum.

Summer Fair Success

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Fair. Together we raised approximately **£400**, which will help support future opportunities for our children. As we begin planning next year's event, we are considering moving towards a community festival-style event rather than a traditional Summer Fair. We would love to hear your thoughts as plans develop.

SEPTEMBER INFORMATION

PE Kits:

We will be having a big push on PE from September, so please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school every day. Our PE kit consists of:

- Plain white T-shirt
- Black shorts
- Suitable pumps for inside and trainers for outside.

ParentPay and Cash-Free School

From September, we will continue our move towards becoming a cash-free school through ParentPay. This provides a secure and convenient way of making payments and helps reduce administration time within school. Further information will be shared at the start of the Autumn Term.



New Class Names

Following a vote by the children, we are delighted to launch our new

Lancashire wildlife-themed class names:

- 🦔 Hedgehogs (Pre-School)
- 🐰 Rabbits (Reception)
- 🐿 Squirrels (Year 1)
- 🦊 Foxes (Year 2)
- 🦡 Badgers (Year 3/4)
- 🦌 Deer (Year 4/5)
- 🦅 Peregrine Falcons (Year 5/6)

The children (and staff!) are incredibly enthusiastic about the new class names.

DONATIONS WANTED

We would be very grateful for donations of:

- School uniform
- PE kits
- Shoes
- Wellies
- Coats

If your children have outgrown any items that still have plenty of life left in them, please consider donating them to school.

HAVE YOUR SAY – PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who has already completed our parent survey. If you have not yet had chance, we would really value your feedback. **Parent Survey:**

[Complete the survey here](#)

BETTY and DOTTIE CORNER

Betty paid her first visit to school today and enjoyed meeting Dottie and all of the children and staff! Over the coming months, Betty will gradually begin spending more time in school as she grows and continues her training. The children are already very excited about following her journey and learning alongside her. Although she is still only a puppy, I think we can all agree she is already looking rather huge!

Staff News

We say
goodbye
to **Mrs Thompson**
and **Mrs**

Grisedale today. Both have played an important role within our school



community and have supported countless children and families during their time with us. We thank them for their dedication, commitment and care, and wish them every happiness and success as they move on to new opportunities. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome **Miss Close** and **Miss Duckworth** to our school family. We know they will receive a very warm Rishton Methodist welcome.

Looking Back... and Forward

There comes a moment when we are called to step forward and embrace new opportunities. For our Year 6 children, that moment is now. As we listened to their favourite memories today, it reminded us that while schools are places of learning, they are also places where confidence is built, friendships are formed and lives are shaped. *To our Year 6 children – be brave enough to try new things, kind enough to support others and confident enough to believe in yourselves. We know each and every one of you has something special to offer the world. You will always be part of the Rishton Methodist family.*

Finally, thank you for your incredible support throughout this year.

Schools thrive when families, staff, governors and children work together and we genuinely could not wish for a more supportive, caring and encouraging school community.

Have a fantastic summer holiday. Make wonderful memories, spend time together and stay safe.



With warmest wishes,
Mrs Higgins
Headteacher