



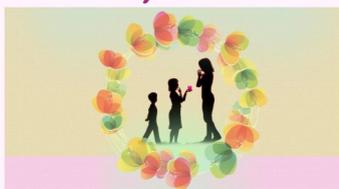
# Raleigh Headlines

Issue 9 Spring Term — 11th March 2021

- It was an absolute pleasure to **welcome all the children back** on Monday; they are loving catching up with their friends and learning once again in class.
- We are looking to refresh the furniture in the Year 1 outdoor learning area and have scrapped some items. Do you have a robust, **children's picnic table** in good condition that you could donate? Many thanks....
- As I write this, I am looking forward to this evening's **parents' consultation** sessions. Those on Tuesday went very well using the new software for booking and managing the appointments. The appointment is to discuss how your child has settled back into school and a brief comment about their progress. Please log in on time as we cannot extend the appointment if you are late.
- **Year 4** have their Rainforest WOW day tomorrow, very exciting! Thanks to the staff team for organising it.
- **Comic Relief** — We have nearly sold out of red noses! We have a few left and these are being sold by our School Councillors in each class for £1.50. Once we have sold out, please be aware that red noses can be purchased from Sainsbury's supermarkets. Thanks to everyone for participating and donating, so enthusiastically! Remember that our "superhero" themed mufti takes place next **Friday 19th March**. The cost is **£2** per child please and all proceeds go to Comic Relief. Let's make a real difference.
- We are **currently looking for two new students** to train for one year to become teachers, starting this September. It is a wonderful career for all graduates to consider and can be carried out 'on-the-job' here at The Raleigh. There is a prospectus in the new lobby that you may help yourself to, see further information on page 2 or just ring the school office to speak to Mrs O'Neill.
- The **Reading Policy** requirements regarding how often your child is heard reading by staff will be **paused** until Friday 19th March so the teachers can assess all the children again.
- Have you visited the new **Health & Wellbeing** page on our website? Just [click here](#).
- We have had an excellent, take-up for the optional, additional **tuition sessions for invited children** only in years **2-6** run by the teachers in their own time in the first week of the Easter holidays. We know that some of you are disappointed in years R & 1 in not being successful in gaining one of the limited places this time. The Government funding for 'catch-up' tuition, in our school, and all other schools across the Trust has been put towards things that will benefit all 436 pupils at The Raleigh, your child included. We have spent the money (& much more!) on additional book-banded reading books, phonics and reading comprehension resources, more pupil laptops & a laptop trolley (with help from The Friends of The Raleigh), extra teaching capacity, additional teacher employed in Y4-6 to support focus groups, 1-2-1 tuition – recognised as a gold standard offer to benefit all children.
- A full range of clubs will be published before the end of term that will run from Summer week 3 and as soon as the list is published, you will be able to book places as usual via Tucasi.
- Surrey STOP Padlet have just added a section specifically aimed at supporting parents. It has valuable links to support parents with their child's mental health, return to school, learning and managing their own mental health. Just [click here](#) to visit their site.



## Mothering Sunday Zoom Family Service



Sunday 14th March  
at 10.30am

'Here is your mother' John 19:27

Do join us for our special online service!

Email: [parishoffice@easthorsleychurch.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@easthorsleychurch.org.uk) for Zoom details



Warmly invites you to join us for our

## Mothering Sunday Family Service on Zoom

10am on Sunday 14th March

Email [office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk) to request the Zoom link

### Success for Raleigh writers!

We are thrilled to announce that Tia in Year 5 has won the local heat of this year's Rotary Club Young Writer competition. Congratulations Tia! You can read Tia's vividly told fantasy birthday experience in this week's newsletter on page 3. Her entry has now been submitted to the next stage of the competition at regional level.

In addition, the judge highly commended Evie (Y6) and Abi (Y5) The judge enjoyed *'the wonderfully descriptive account of a Michelin-starred restaurant by Evie; and the atmosphere enhanced by the use of refrain to create rhythm in the poem by Abi.'*

We will publish Evie's and Abi's writing in Headlines over the next two weeks.

We are also very proud of the 10 other children who worked hard to produce and submit their entries:

Emily, Jack, Sophia, Ava, Archie, Alba, Imogen, Sam, Heidi and Ivy (all Year 5)

The judge was very complimentary about all of them and said:

*Whether fact or fiction, I felt I was there, enjoying all these days and emotions with you and it shows how well you have written your entries. The theme provided a wide range of opportunities, and it is a credit to you all that you took full advantage with great ideas and some excellent examples of imaginative and informative writing.*

This is the second year running that a Raleigh pupil has won the local competition so well done to all the entrants – and let's hope more budding writers take the chance to take part next year!

## The best day of my life

By Tia, 5 Cedar

As I opened my eyes, I immediately felt older, wiser, taller. You see, today is my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. I'd finally hit double digits and I was about to be reminded.

"Melody!"

Right on cue! Every birthday morning, without fail, my parents (led by my mum) sing Happy Birthday to me. But not the normal way, it involves props, balloons, streamers, actions, dancing and incredibly loud voices. This year was no different, although they did hand me a very different gift – a unique voucher for Pick a Portal Hotel! Only the best hotel in the village. No, the borough. No, the country. No with whole entire world! I was given a three portal experience voucher which entitles me to choose entirely on the colour, shape and size of the entrance. I have no idea what's behind it. Basically, it's luck of the draw!

Choosing my first portal was hard. Very hard. Positively trembling with excitement, I was ready to leap. I had chosen a baby pink portal – the colour of candy floss. I was drawn to this one because of its unusual swirly pattern and its mouth-watering scent. I jumped.

I could see an icing topped castle and a plump little king. I could smell candy. I could taste lollypops. I could hear shrieking children. I could feel the urge to run and lick something.

"Hello, I am Lord Liquorice!" said a booming voice.

I instantly knew I was in Candy Land. In front of me, was the tall, skinny man armoured in liquorice from head to toe with a curly, red moustache long enough to curl around his finger. To my left, there was a chubby, blue monster with a contagious smile who seemed to enjoy hopping on one leg. Before I knew it, I was on Mr Ginger's (a flustered little ginger bread man) tour. Candy Land truly was a crazy and exciting place. With a stomach ache from eating so many sweets, I left Candy Land ready for portal number 2.

The sapphire blue portal caught my eye. I jumped. This one was nothing like Candy Land. I was in a large factory with banners being made everywhere and everybody celebrating joyfully. I could see people getting interviewed by little men in black suits. I looked down to see a little man tapping on my leg.

"What's your name? Where do you come from? What's your favourite colour? What's your best thing to do?"

Somewhat flustered, I answered his questions and then he disappeared. A minute later, through a loud speaker, they made an announcement saying they had named a day after me – Melody. I then realised that I was in Celebration City.

How could I resist portal number 3's rainbow coloured entrance? It seemed to be calling me. I jumped. Before I saw it, I heard it – the unmistakable sound of a waterfall. I had heard about this portal, I was in Wishing Waterfall Wonderland. I rushed to see what all the hustle and bustle was all about. Totally overwhelmed, I could see mermaids and dolphins leaping about in a crystal-clear pool granting wishes. I pushed my way to the front, made my wish (I know I shouldn't tell but I wished to one day own my own Pick a Portal Hotel) and joined the queue to have my picture taken in front of Coral and Shelly, the leaping mermaids. I couldn't wait to show and tell the picture in school on Monday.

This was definitely the best birthday ever and, without a doubt, the best day of my life.