



# BECKWITHSHAW PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2024

### FEDERATION ATTENDANCE - YTD

	WHOLE SCHOOL	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
RIPLEY	97%	97%	96%	97%
BECKWITHSHAW	97%	98%	95%	97%
KETTLESING	97%	95%	97%	97%

A reminder that all absences must be reported to the school office before 9am on each day of absence. Medical appointments should be booked outside of school hours, but when unavoidable a letter, text or email confirming the appointment must be given to the school for your child's attendance records. If we do not receive this documentation, children's attendance will be marked as unauthorised leave.

### HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach to the end of term and commence this festive period, we see this as a time of reflection: reflecting on not only the previous term, but the calendar year moving into 2025.

As a federation we continue to our journey of success and our aim of transforming the lives of your children to which we remain wholly committed to. Ofsted outcomes for us, are a wonderful affirmation of the hard work of all however we must not lose sight of the most important gifts we can give to our children as educators: joy and passion for learning, memorable experiences, instilling love, mutual respect, care and ensuring that their schools lives are filled with happiness.

It is a delight to see your children engaged in outstanding learning, immersed in enrichment events at various locations, interacting with top-level professionals and being courageous advocates for safeguarding, real-world issues and charity work.

Again, as we move towards this Christmas time, the most special gifts we can give to our children are not those with a price tag attached but those which underpin our Federation: Community, Compassion, Courage - Growing Together, Guided by Love.

I very much look forward to seeing you all in the remaining days at various events including at each school Nativity and thank you for your support and positivity in 2024.

Much love,

Miss Kirkman

### DATES FOR THE DIARY



DATE	EVENT
6th Dec	FOBs Christmas Celebration / Raffle (After School)
7th Dec	Royal Hall Christmas Concert - Federation Choir
12th Dec	Christmas jumper and Christmas enterprise day
13th Dec	Celebration Assembly @ 8.50am in the Village Hall
13th Dec	Whole school panto trip
18th Dec	Christmas lunch and party
19th Dec	Nativity - 2pm in Church
20th Dec	Last day of term
23rd Dec - 3rd Jan	Christmas holidays - school closed
6th Jan	Staff Development Day - School Closed
7th Jan	School re-opens to all pupils
7th Jan	Parent/Carer internet Safety Presentation via TEAMS
13th Jan	KS2 Swimming (Years 3-6)
15th Jan	Y6 Residential - Parents information Evening @ School
16th Jan	Best of British - Special lunch menu
20th Jan	KS2 Swimming (Years 3-6)
24th Jan	Celebration assembly 8:50am in the
27th Jan	KS2 Swimming (Years 3-6)
3rd Feb	KS2 Swimming (Years 3-6)
4th Feb	KS2 Dance Competition

OPEN DAYS

GROWING TOGETHER, GUIDED BY LOVE

# RBK Federation Open Day

Your chance to visit one, two  
or all three of our Federation schools  
in one day!



**Wednesday,  
8 January 2025**

**9.30am-2.30pm**

**No booking necessary**

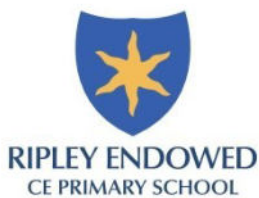
Find out more at [rbk.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://rbk.n-yorks.sch.uk)

## OPEN DAYS

Growing together,  
guided by love.

The RBK Federation

Village schools with smaller class sizes,  
big ideas and boundless aspirations.



Ripley Endowed C of E  
Primary School  
Main St  
Ripley  
Harrogate HG3 3AY  
[ripleyce.org.uk](http://ripleyce.org.uk)  
Map: [shorturl.at/QbtOI](https://shorturl.at/QbtOI)

"Vision underpins a culture that **nurtures all**. The curriculum is carefully planned to **enable all to achieve**. This includes those that are **vulnerable and those with SEND**."

SIAMS, 2023



Beckwithshaw  
Primary School  
Church Row  
Beckwithshaw  
Harrogate HG3 1QW  
[beckwithshawprimary.org.uk](http://beckwithshawprimary.org.uk)  
Map: [shorturl.at/WnPaB](https://shorturl.at/WnPaB)

"A **happy place for children to learn**... pupils [receive] a **better quality of education**... leaders and staff are **ambitious**... they have **high expectations for the future**."

OFSTED, 2023



Kettlesing Community  
Primary School  
Kettlesing  
Harrogate HG3 2LB  
[kettlesing.org.uk](http://kettlesing.org.uk)  
Map: [shorturl.at/hhxfQ](https://shorturl.at/hhxfQ)

The school is unwavering in their commitment to providing every pupil with the **best educational experiences possible**. Pupils are **incredibly happy** and thrive at this school.

OFSTED, 2024



Find out more at  
[rbk.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://rbk.n-yorks.sch.uk)



## Reminders, Updates, and Information

### **ROYAL HALL - SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 2024**

A reminder that those participating in the Royal Hall should be at the venue to start rehearsals at 2pm. Full school uniform is to be worn and children will need a packed dinner, snacks and a water bottle. You will need to sign your child out with a member of staff at the end of the concert before leaving.

### **CHRISTMAS JUMPER AND ENTERPRISE DAY - THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER 2024**

For a donation of £1.00, children can wear Christmas jumpers, alongside normal school bottoms, to raise money for Save the Children.

Throughout the day, children will be attending different enterprise workshops. They will then be selling their festive creations at the end of the day in house teams.

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND PARTY - WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2024**

Children are invited to wear party wear for a day of festivities. The normal lunch menu will be replaced with a 'Christmas Lunch Special' on this day, as previously communicated.

### **NATIVITY - THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER 2024**

The Nativity will take place at St Michael & All Angels' Church from 2pm on Thursday 19th December, and we warmly invite all our families to join us to watch this year's production of 'Simply The Nativity'.

Children will be taken back to school by staff to collect their belongings and will then be dismissed to parents & carers.

### **YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL - BEWERLEY PARK - March 2025**

We are delighted to be taking our Y6 pupils across the Federation to Bewerley Park for next year's residential. A parent/carer Information evening will be held at Beckwithshaw school on 15th January at 5pm.

### **UNIFORM**

A polite reminder that children should be in full winter uniform. Children can wear a small pair of stud earrings and a watch (not smart watch) but no other jewellery is permitted.

### **KS2 SWIMMING**

KS2 children will be attending swimming every Monday for the Spring Term. Please complete permission forms on Parentmail.

### **MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

A polite reminder that where possible appointments to be made outside of school. We require a copy of appointments if made during the school day.

## CLUBS FOR SPRING 1

**Tuesday 3.30- 4.30pm - Chess Club with Mr Giles**

**Tuesday 12.30—1pm - Drama Club with Natalie Hamburg**

**Wednesday 3.30- 4.30pm - Football Club with Harrogate AFC**

**Thursday 3.30- 4.30pm - Gymnastics Club with Mrs Wilcox from Sporting Influence**

Gymnastics will replace dodgeball, offering children more of a choice in the sporting activities they participate in across the academic year.

Football, Gymnastics and Drama Club have limited spaces so be sure to book these early to avoid disappointment.

Football, Dodgeball and Chess Club will be charged at £6.00 per session and run for 6 weeks from WC 06.01.25 - WC 10.02.25. The full payment of £36.00 will be required to secure your child's place.

Drama Club will run from Jan—July, and will be charged at £6.00 per session. Permission forms will be on Parentmail, with payment made directly to Natalie Hamburg.

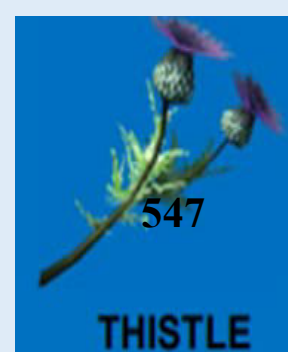
**Booking and payment for all clubs will go live next week on Parentmail and will be on a first come first serve basis. Parents will be notified when booking goes live.**

**BOOKING WILL CLOSE AT 5PM ON FRIDAY 3rd JANUARY 2025.**

## HOUSE POINTS

Congratulation Team **Shamrock** who were the winning team last half term. We can't wait to announce the winning team in a few weeks, and the prize they will enjoy!

### House Point Tally



# What we've been up to

## REMEMBERENCE DAY

An afternoon of reflection in Class One Creating our poppies, pictures and poems ready for Remembrance Day. Lest we Forget 🌹



Miss Kirkman could not be prouder of our four Service Family pupil representatives who attended Ripon Cathedral for the Festival of Remembrance. Not only were they exceptionally well behaved, but their attitudes and empathy when laying their wreaths was superb!



We are so proud of our service children. In Class 2 they gave a small talk about what it's like to have a parent in the forces and then after learning about the history of poppies as symbols of remembrance we all made our own poppies and wrote messages of thanks on the back of them.



## What we've been up to

### Thank you to the Army Foundation College

Thank you so much to the Army Foundation College and Governor Mrs Carr for welcoming Miss Kirkman to the welfare families coffee morning. This was a super opportunity to increase our forces family pupil numbers across Beckwithshaw and Kettleasing. Our plan is to have a larger bus with more children for Beckwithshaw and a route to Kettleasing also.



### ANTI BULLYING WEEK

We spent time as a whole school on, 'Odd socks day' discussing ways to 'Choose respect' and show kindness in the community. We celebrated and embraced our differences and talked about effective communication strategies for solving problems. We are so proud of the compassionate, articulate children we have at Beckwithshaw.



## What we've been up to

### OPERATION TRAFFIC

We are so grateful to North Yorkshire Police for supporting us with road safety on such a dangerous road which we have been campaigning for, for years!

Three of our children were courageous advocates as they supported North Yorkshire Police in Operation Traffic, ensuring the speed of traffic passing Beckwithshaw was under control.

They had opportunities to ask questions about the role of the police officers and were so pleased to get out in the community and help. Well done Bella, Theo and Seb. What excellent role models you are to our younger children!

Thank you to all our parents and carers for parking responsibly and not outside of the school railings.





## What we've been up to

### CHILDREN IN NEED

The children looked super in their spots and we were so proud of our sports leaders, who planned 'gladiator style' sporting challenges for all to be involved in at social times. It was such good fun and the team spirit was admirable!



## What we've been up to

### WHOLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Along with our 2 federated schools, children across the school took part in the Sporting Influence Cross country competition at Ashville College. Well done to each and everyone for taking part. It was wonderful to see all the children having fun and cheering each other on, a true community and federation spirit.



## What we've been up to

### OTLEY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS FAYRE

What an utterly amazing day! The Federation Choir came together in spectacular fashion to perform at the Otley Victorian Christmas Fair 2024.

So very proud of all involved. Special thanks to the parents and carers who brought their children today- we could not do it without you Thank you also to Mrs Godley (Kettlesing) for the superb costume accessories donated to the Fed.

As ever, our children did us proud!



## What we've been up to

### HARROGATE TOWN AFC

Thank you so much Harrogate Town AFC Community Foundation for running these super sessions combining sports and reading. You can see how thrilled the children are to receive a signed shirt and books from you.



### CLASS 1

Another lovely start to Autumn 2 in Class One. We have been busy in our English looking at a variety of texts on our topic 'toys'. We practised writing Character Descriptions about Dogger using adjectives to form expanded noun phrases and we very much enjoyed looking at the song Teddy Bear's Picnic, writing a recount of our own exciting Teddy Bear's Picnic! We thoroughly enjoyed the Teddy Bear's Picnic, lots of smiles and some very impressive dance moves!!

In Maths, we have been working hard on our addition and subtraction and gaining independence in using our maths resources. We have explored number bonds to 10/20 and tackled near doubles with resilience and determination.

Our wider curriculum has seen us exploring toys of the past in our history and thinking about how and why toys have changed. The children have enjoyed a show and tell session with their favourite toys and are so excited to start creating Baby Bear's chair in DT in the coming weeks. We are enjoying exploring the Christian Christmas story in R.E which is helping us to understand our own parts in the Nativity.

We are working so hard to learn the songs and our lines for our Nativity play and there's lots of exciting discussions between the children about costumes!

We have been comparing materials in science and have been investigating why materials are chosen for particular objects. We are looking forward to investigating how materials can be changed using 'stretch it, bend it, twist it, squash it'.

Our little Reception starters featured in the Harrogate Advertiser. Little superstars!

Class One continue to show such enthusiasm for their learning, and I look forward to seeing this continue.

# What we've been up to

## CLASS 1 (Continued)



10. PRIMARY SCHOOL STARTERS  
2024

Beckwithshaw Primary School Photo: Submitted

## What we've been up to

### Class 2

We have had a really great start to the second half term of the school year in Class 2. We have been studying Antarctica in Geography and using it as inspiration in English so as the weather has got colder we have had lots of snowy, frozen stories and polar facts.

Our class book is a fictionalised account of the childhood of Mathew Henson a black Polar explorer who only found the same recognition as his white companions' years after his expeditions.

In English we have focused on describing Antarctica and how to set a scene when writing.

We have held some really successful joint spelling and writing workshops with class 3 where the children have had buddies from the class above to model good practise for them.

Our new Science topic is electrical circuits and the children have really enjoyed building circuits and testing them to see if they can make a component work. We have learned about switches and power sources and insulators and conductors so far.

In Maths we have learned (or recapped for year 4) the column addition method and are now focusing on subtraction.

I have really enjoyed seeing the children take on the challenge of gymnastics in the hall, they have been very enthusiastic and all have tried really hard to master the moves that Mrs Wilcox from Sporting Influence has shown them. We have been using our yoga sessions as a chance to relax our bodies and our minds and have done some breathing work to help mental wellbeing alongside the physical benefits of yoga.

We were lucky enough to join a webinar with the CEO of Octopus energy where we discussed renewable energy sources and were able to ask questions of our own.

Our RE has involved discussions and learning about religious festivals and how they are celebrated, with Christmas approaching we are going to compare this to other festivals from different religions. In PSHE we have explored how to look after our own health and wellbeing, so far we have looked at diet and dental care and will be looking at techniques we can use to boost our emotional health as the term progresses.

We have all enjoyed expressing ourselves artistically where we have learned about how to use tints and shades of colours to create 3D effects.

# What we've been up to

## CLASS 2 (Continued)



# What we've been up to

## CLASS 3

What a wonderful half term so far in Class 3! Your children are making amazing progress with their writing as we enjoy our texts, 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria' and 'Boy at the Back of the Class.'

We have written emotive diary entries and really improved our technical accuracy and vocabulary choices as well as ensuring we check spellings with care when editing.

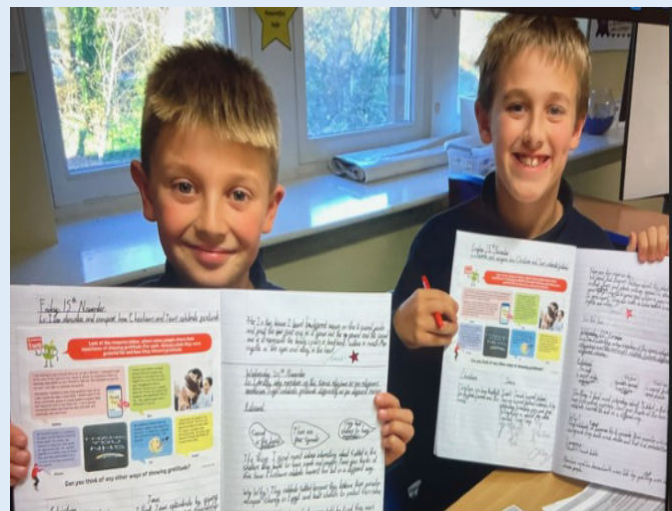
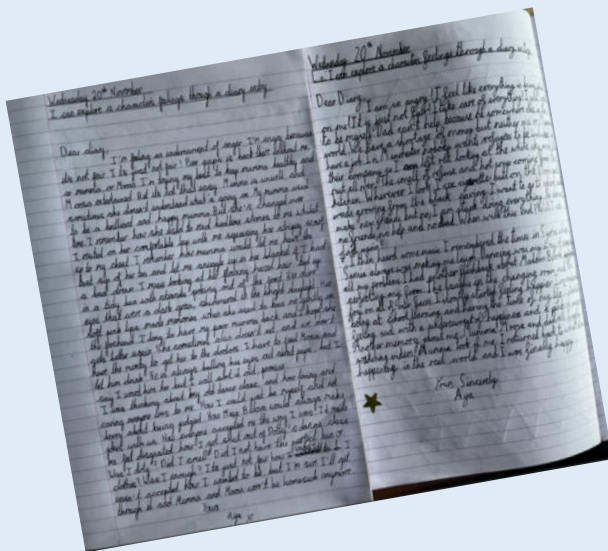
Anti-bullying week was fun as we composed songs in Music with the theme of, 'Choose respect.' These were excellent and really put across the important message of treating others how you would like to be treated.

The children have been 'independent enquirers' in Science as they investigate light and reflections and study the eye. This led to some great discussion in PSHE about quality of sleep and how we can ensure we get plenty of rest each night.

Our Maths work has involved mastery of fractions and we are improving every day.

Time has been taken to ensure the children are fluent with many of them enjoying the daily challenges of reasoning and problem solving.

The boys in the photograph are proud of their RE work which investigates how religious and non-religious worldviews are celebrated through festivals, looking at different reasons people celebrate.





## What we've been up to

### CLASS 3 (Continued)

#### MUSIC NEWS 🎵 🎵 🎵

Our school choir and federation choir have been really busy, rehearsing songs for their upcoming concerts at Otley Christmas Market and Harrogate Christmas Concert, The Royal Hall. We love putting actions with the words and it is such a fun time to get together and enjoy music. Thank you to all the children (and parents/carers) for the commitment to this and to our student teacher, Miss Berry for supporting on the keyboard.

In December, the choir will work alongside FOBs and the rest of the school for our sponsored sing to raise much needed funds. Please support us by donating. The sponsored sing involves our pledge to sing every day in school throughout December, including additional singing for our parents and community at Christmas events and the mental health and wellbeing team are busy organising this.

There is a Seesaw competition for the children to showcase their singing and dancing talent in a fun, festive way! Please encourage children to enter.



### Friends of Beckwithshaw School (FOBS)

On behalf of the staff at school, we would like to thank Mrs Craig & Miss Heaton for their hard work. We appreciate everything that you do for the school. The Year 6 children took great pleasure in decorating the Christmas tree, which was sponsored by Yorkshire Flapjack.



## Safeguarding

### TOYS SAFETY

In the lead up to Christmas, when your children will be receiving toys, electronics and gifts, we want to highlight the dangers of button batteries and magnets that are found in many of these items, as well as general household objects. Below is some information to help you identify dangers and what to do if your child ingests a battery or magnet.

# BREAKING NEWS

## Magnets can rip a hole in your child's gut!



- Super strong magnets, like these, can cause serious damage to your child's insides if they swallow them.

- They can join together and make holes in their gut. Removal can be difficult and need complex surgery.



- They can be in toys, jewellery, fridge magnets or cheap products bought from online marketplaces. They can be 10 times stronger than is safe.

**⚠ If your child may have swallowed magnets, don't delay! ⚠**  
**Call 999 for an ambulance or go straight to A&E. Symptoms can seem like a stomach bug or appendicitis.**



[www.capt.org.uk/magnets](http://www.capt.org.uk/magnets)



@ChildAccidentPreventionTrust



**BAPS** | British Association of  
Paediatric Surgeons

child accident  
prevention trust 

# BUTTON CELL BATTERIES

## WHAT ARE THE DANGERS?



When a button cell battery reacts with saliva it creates caustic soda, the chemical used to unblock drains.



Even after the batteries appear to have 'died' they still have enough power to create a reaction.



If swallowed, the batteries can get stuck in a child's throat and burn the flesh, injuring or even killing them.

## WHERE WILL I FIND THEM?

### TOYS & GADGETS

Novelty toys such as robot bug or fish toys, fidget spinners with LED lights and gaming headsets.

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Bathroom and kitchen scales, thermometers, night lights, calculators, tea lights and spare battery drawers.

### REMOTES & WATCHES

Remote controls, car key fobs and key finders, fitness trackers, watches, 3D glasses and musical greetings cards.

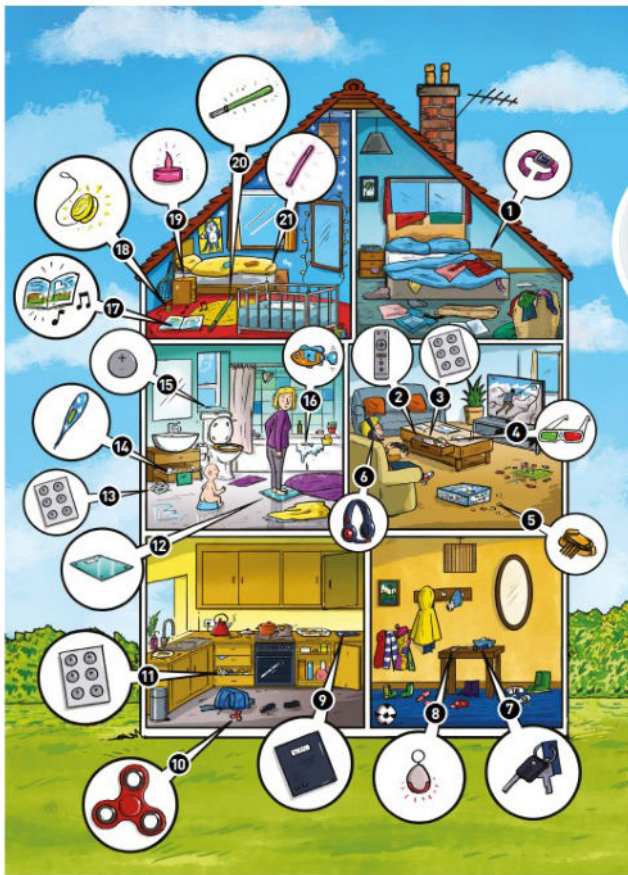


Button cell batteries are dangerous. **Check your home for them.**  
Throw dead batteries away straight away and keep live ones somewhere safe.

## ALWAYS KEEP THEM AWAY FROM CHILDREN

For more advice on managing the risks go to:  
[www.buttonbatterysafety.com](http://www.buttonbatterysafety.com)  
[www.capt.org.uk/button-batteries](http://www.capt.org.uk/button-batteries)  
[www.rospa.com/button-batteries](http://www.rospa.com/button-batteries)

# Safeguarding



## Button batteries - where are yours?



+BIPBA-  
British and Irish Portable Battery Association



Button batteries, particularly big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries, can badly hurt or kill a small child within two hours, if they get stuck in the food pipe. Know where yours are, so you can keep your children safe.

### Five top tips

- Hunt around your home for button batteries – in products as well as spare and 'flat' batteries.
- Keep products well out of children's reach if the battery compartment isn't secured.
- Store spare button batteries in sealed containers in a high cupboard.
- Remember that 'flat' or 'dead' batteries still hold enough power to badly hurt a child. So put them out of children's reach straight away and recycle them safely and as quickly as possible.
- If you think your child has swallowed one, don't delay. Trust your instincts and take them to A&E straight away or call 999 for an ambulance. Don't let them eat or drink and don't make them sick.

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Fitness tracker          | 12. Bathroom scales       |
| 2. Remote control           | 13. Spare batteries       |
| 3. Spare batteries          | 14. Thermometer           |
| 4. 3D glasses               | 15. Flat battery          |
| 5. Robot bug toy            | 16. Robo fish             |
| 6. Gaming headset           | 17. Musical greeting card |
| 7. Car key                  | 18. Light-up yo-yo        |
| 8. Key finder               | 19. Tea light             |
| 9. Kitchen scales           | 20. Light saber           |
| 10. Light up fidget spinner | 21. Flashing wand         |

### For more help



© capt.org.uk/button-batteries  
@ChildAccidentPreventionTrust

Office for Product  
Safety & Standards

# Buy toys safely this Christmas

Check gifts for kids are age appropriate toys.

✓ Magnets and other novelties can cause harm.

For further information regarding toy safety, please visit  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/child-safety-buying-toys-this-christmas>

If you are concerned about a child's welfare please contact: Miss Victoria Kirkman - Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Elouise Foster - Deputy Safeguarding Lead or Mrs Katy Lyne - Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Beckwithshaw 01423 504642, Ripley 01423 770160, or Kettleing 01423 770576