

# Ryton on Dunsmore Academy

7th September 2026



## Upcoming Events

10<sup>th</sup> Sep

Year 3 and 4 Swimming

21<sup>st</sup> Sep

Flu vaccinations for R-Y6

24<sup>th</sup> Sep

Macmillan Coffee morning 10am

28<sup>th</sup> Sep

2.45pm Early Years Phonics Workshop for parents

28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Sep

Level 2 Bikeability Years 5 and 6

1<sup>st</sup> Oct

Census Day - Menu TBA

8<sup>th</sup> Oct

Year 5 and 6 trip to Coventry Cathedral

14<sup>th</sup> Oct

Year 3 and 4 trip to the Lunt Roman Fort

Thursday 22nd Oct

Break up for half term

## Message from Miss Cullen



A very warm welcome back to all of our children and families as we begin a new school year at Ryton-on-Dunsmore Academy. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break and have returned feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead.

It has been wonderful to see everyone back in school this week. One thing that staff have particularly missed over the summer is seeing the children arrive each morning with smiles on their faces, full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. The school has once again been filled with the laughter, energy and excitement that make Ryton such a special place to be.

During my walks around school this week, it has been fantastic to see how quickly and confidently the children have settled into their new classes. Whether they have moved into a new year group, met a new teacher or are adapting to new routines, they have approached the changes with positivity and maturity. There has been a vibrant and positive buzz around the school, with children already engaging enthusiastically in their learning and making the most of the opportunities on offer.

Love

Honesty

Fairness

Hope

Respect

Forgiveness

# Ryton on Dunsmore Academy

## Message from Miss Cullen (Continued)

Of course, after six weeks away, there were a few yawns from some of the children by Friday afternoon, but that is only to be expected! Despite this, I have been incredibly impressed by the resilience, effort and enthusiasm shown by all of our pupils.

Thank you to all families for your support in ensuring such a smooth start to the term. We are looking forward to another exciting year of learning, growth and memorable experiences, and we are delighted to be sharing that journey with you. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

## Staffing Update

As we begin the new school year, I would like to take the opportunity to share a few staffing updates with you.

Firstly, I am delighted to welcome Miss Ortega to Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Miss Ortega has joined us as the teacher of Joyce Class, our new SEMH Specialist Resource Provision for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We are excited to have her as part of our team and look forward to seeing the positive impact she will have on the children she supports.

Unfortunately, Mr Lee has not yet returned to school. Mrs Bale will continue to support Mrs Lambeth and will be working with small groups of pupils outside the classroom to ensure that all children continue to benefit from the very best learning environment and support. I have been incredibly impressed with how well the children have adapted to these changes and the positive start they have made to their learning this term.

Over the summer, Mrs Farrell made the decision to retire from education and will not be returning to Ryton this year. I know many children, families and staff will be saddened that they were unable to say a proper goodbye. Throughout her time at Ryton, Mrs Farrell has made a significant contribution to the lives of countless pupils, supporting them with care, dedication and kindness. On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to thank her for everything she has done and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

You may also have noticed that KICK has not yet returned to school. We are working closely with them and remain hopeful that a coach will be able to join us soon, allowing this valued partnership to continue and enabling pupils across the school to benefit from their provision once again.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to provide the very best opportunities and experiences for all of our children.

# Ryton on Dunsmore Academy

## Building work update

We were fortunate to have contractors on site for much of the summer holiday, and I am delighted with the improvements that have been made across the school. Most notably, the former Shine Room has been completely transformed into our new SEMH Specialist Resource Provision, Joyce Class. The space has been thoughtfully designed to provide a calm, supportive and nurturing environment for the children who will access the provision.

In addition, new storage facilities have been installed in the main part of the school, helping us to make even better use of our learning spaces. These improvements not only look fantastic but will also make a real difference to the day-to-day organisation of the school.

A huge thank you must also go to Mr Harris, who has been incredibly busy over the summer. He has given the school entrance a fresh coat of paint, and the difference is remarkable. The area now looks much brighter, more welcoming and is a wonderful way to greet visitors, children and families each day.

Mr Harris is keen to continue improving both our indoor and outdoor environments and is looking for volunteers who may be able to spare some time to help with painting projects around the school. If this is something you would be interested in supporting, please contact Mr Harris via the school office.



# Attendance

It was great to see that 77 pupils out of the 98 on roll attended school every day last week. This has given them the opportunity to settle into their new classes, build relationships with their teachers and classmates, and engage with new learning as staff introduce fresh content while reinforcing the key skills and knowledge that underpin future success.

However, it was disappointing to see that attendance in some classes was lower than we would have hoped for at the start of the new academic year. Good attendance from day one is vital, as it helps children establish positive routines and ensures they do not miss important learning opportunities. Miss McLardy and I will be reaching out to a number of families to offer support and guidance where needed, ensuring that every child can access their full educational entitlement.

As a school, we do not authorise holidays during term time. From this year, we will also be operating as a fining school, working closely with Warwickshire County Council to improve attendance and ensure that all pupils benefit from consistent access to education. We appreciate the support of our families in helping us make attendance a priority and ensuring that every child has the best possible chance to succeed.

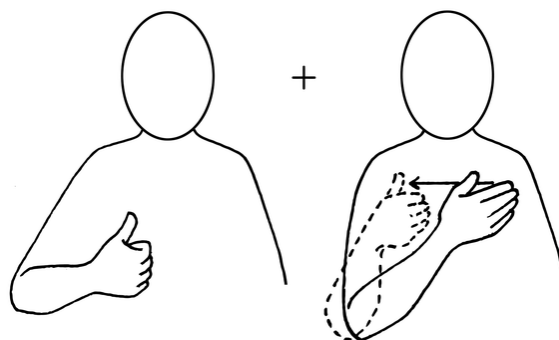
## Staff Training and Safeguarding

All staff began the new academic year with Makaton training, helping us to further develop our inclusive approach to communication across the school. Makaton is a language programme that combines speech with signs and symbols, enabling children to communicate more effectively and supporting understanding for all learners. Staff are currently developing their confidence and familiarity with key signs, and each week we will focus on a small number of words and gestures that can be used consistently across the school.

Alongside this, all staff completed our annual safeguarding training and updates, ensuring that everyone is aware of the latest guidance and any key changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). This is an essential part of our professional development and helps ensure that safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do.

Whilst our annual training provides a valuable foundation, safeguarding is not something we only discuss once a year. Staff regularly revisit key aspects of safeguarding throughout the year through ongoing training, updates and professional discussions to ensure that we remain vigilant and responsive to the needs of our children.

As always, there will be a safeguarding focus within our newsletters, and further information, guidance and support can be accessed at any time via the school website. If you ever have any concerns or require support, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our safeguarding team.



**Makaton sign: Good morning**

## Ryton-on-Dunsmore Academy



### Do you have concerns about a child?

If you have a concern about a child, please speak to one of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Team.



**Sherrise Cullen**  
Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Davina Lambeth**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

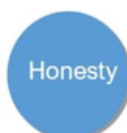


**Karen Tombs**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Julie McLardy**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Safeguarding is **everyones** responsibility





# COME FOR COFFEE AND CAKE

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Join us for coffee and cakes at our new  
Creative Hub at Ryton on Dunsmore Academy  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am to 11am**



WORLD'S BIGGEST  
**COFFEE  
MORNING**

**ALL WELCOME!**

## Introducing the Warwickshire Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Our service is here to help children, young people, and families across Warwickshire stay happy and healthy. Our school health team provides support throughout your child's school years, or up to age 25 for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

We offer advice and support on everyday health topics including:

- Managing stress, anxiety and mental health concerns.
- Support with friendships, bullying and relationships.
- Advice on healthy eating, sleep and self-care.
- Guidance on puberty, personal health and hygiene.
- Help with continence issues, behaviour and more.

We work closely with schools, GPs, and other local services to make sure families get the right support at the right time, focusing on early help and prevention.

0300 247 0072

wcfw.contact@hcrqcaregroup.com

Scan the QR code to visit our website for more information or download a referral form.

SCAN ME



Complete online

## Completing your Child's School Readiness Health Questionnaire

Starting school is an exciting milestone for children and their families.

Make sure you complete your child's School Readiness Health Questionnaire to ensure they get the support they need for a healthy start to their education.

### What is the questionnaire?

Parents and carers of children starting school for the first time in Warwickshire are invited to complete the School Readiness Health Questionnaire online. The questionnaire helps us identify if your child has any health and wellbeing needs that they may need support with, in order to reach their full potential as they enter education. The information also allows us to tailor health support and information for each school based on the needs of their pupils.

### Who will read my answers?

Once you complete the questionnaire, it will be securely shared with our school health team. Your responses are kept confidential and stored securely. Based on your answers, you will receive tailored advice, guidance, and the option to connect with the team for additional health support.

0300 247 0072

wcfw.contact@hcrqcaregroup.com

SCAN ME



Scan the QR code to access the online questionnaire and complete.

**At St Leonard's Church**  
**Ryton on Dunsmore**  
**Saturday 12th September @ 5 pm**



£12 adult: Steak and 2 Sausages  
£5 for Children: 2 sausages and Burger  
*Salads, Breadrolls, Puddings included*  
*Bring your own drinks.*

Tickets from Ba Marsh, Carolyn, Linda, Emma  
Ba Marsh: 024 7630 4295 or [geoffandba@gmail.com](mailto:geoffandba@gmail.com)  
Carolyn: 07879 756203 [carolyn.f.reily@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.f.reily@gmail.com)  
Linda: 07850411260 [lindarangers@yahoo.com](mailto:lindarangers@yahoo.com)  
Emma: 07519447251 [emhunt98@gmail.com](mailto:emhunt98@gmail.com)

# TWIRLS RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE FUNDRAISER



## UNSUNG HEROES

*Wine Tasting*  
WITH  
*Donna*  
with Cheese and biscuits



**FRIDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**7pm till 9pm**



**ST LEONARDS CHURCH CENTRE**  
**RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE**  
**CV8 3ET**



**£27**  
PER PERSON  
PAYABLE ON BOOKING



**RAFFLE**  
*Prizes!*

**18+**

**EVERYONE**  
OVER 18 WELCOME!



Join us and try some amazing wines  
from unexpected places and test your  
knowledge with a fun quiz.



**SPACES ARE LIMITED, TO BOOK CONTACT:**  
**twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com**  
**07710 388199**

CONNECT WITH DONNA  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA AT  
**justaboutwine2024**



# FAMILY WORSHIP

St Leonard's Church



**FIRST SUNDAY**  
OF EVERY MONTH



**9.30 am**

A relaxed and welcoming  
service for everyone.



**MAKING AND DOING**



**TALKING AND SINGING**



**FUN AND THOUGHTFUL**



**FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING**



**SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES**



**REFRESHMENTS**



*Come and Join Us!*



**NEXT SERVICES:**

**6 SEPTEMBER and 4 OCTOBER**

**at 9.30 am.**