



# Radley CE Primary School & Foundation Stage Unit

Telephone: 01235 520814  
Email: [office@radleyprimary.uk](mailto:office@radleyprimary.uk)  
Web: [www.radleyprimary.uk](http://www.radleyprimary.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs Claire Thomas BA(Hons) MEd

Church Road  
Radley  
Abingdon  
Oxfordshire  
OX14 3QF

5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents,

## Visit to Radley College Biology Laboratory – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

You may remember that in science this term we are looking at the heart and circulatory system. To help our studies along I have arranged for Thames Class to visit the Radley College Biology lab where Dr Noone, and his staff, will model how to dissect a heart and look for the main components and features.

The children will learn that the heart is a muscle that constantly pumps blood around the body, what a heart really looks like and that it has a complicated structure. Back in Thames the children will write up their research and findings.

The body of knowledge shared with three children will include:

- The heart is a muscle and has a similar structure in all mammals and birds.
- The human heart is about the size of a fist.
- Every day it beats around 100,000 times.
- It has 4 chambers which fill up with blood and, when the heart muscle squeezes, the blood gets pushed out.
- The heart pumps blood continuously around the body through a network of blood vessels to keep you alive.
- This blood delivers oxygen and nutrients to all parts of your body to help your organs and muscles work properly.
- Blood also carries away unwanted carbon dioxide and waste products.

Children will notice that one of the lower heart chambers has a thicker muscular wall than the other. This is because blood pumped from this chamber has to reach the whole of the body. Blood pumped from the other lower chamber goes to the lungs only.

The heart needs a supply of blood itself to keep functioning. The large blood vessel on the outside of the heart, seen in step 2, provides the heart with oxygenated blood.

There is no cost for the visit. Should it be that you do not wish your child to take part in the session do let me know.

Kind regards,

Mr Wolstenholme  
Thames Class Teacher