

**RIDING**  
**for**  
**SMILES**



**UPDATE**

**January**  
**2021**

In December I included a description of RfS in 100 words. Here are 17 wonderful words from Alison Pymm, Head at Creswell Junior School.

*Anxieties have been alleviated, confidence raised, negative behaviours successfully addressed, and the thrill of horse riding felt.*

You can read all of Alison's kind words at <https://wp.me/Pbnj3l-9l>

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The stables are closed and RfS cannot continue at the moment. I understand schools are open and doing fabulous work for the children and the community. Below is a picture of some of my hats, I would like to doff them all to every member of staff, your helpers and volunteers, your supporters, and your children. Do please keep safe and well, we cannot wait to welcome you back.

*Dr. Geoff Cutts, Chair of the Trustees, RfS [chair@ridingforsmiles.org](mailto:chair@ridingforsmiles.org)  
Stephanie Hind [info@ridingforsmiles.org](mailto:info@ridingforsmiles.org)*

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**Development.** We have been working with consultants from Connected Thinking who are specialists in advising equestrian based organisations and charities. This work, funded by a grant of £8,000 from the Lottery, has enabled us to learn from organisation like Ride High, a successful equestrian based charity in Milton Keynes, to evaluate and recast our Business Plan, safeguarding procedures etc. and to further develop our excellent relationship with Coloured Cob.

**Research.** A further grant of £3,500 is funding the mental health research project being led by Stephanie Hind with Creswell and Whaley Thorns schools and other partners including MIND and CAMHS. A further £20,000 has been received to fund pupils to take part in the project. Several groups of pupils are attending and will continue as soon as we are open again.

**Back to School.** Ride High have a remarkably successful programme with the objective of getting those children not in mainstream education, back to school. Children attend the stables for two hours, three times each week for a term. Each two-hour session comprises 30 minutes of group work in the yard, filling hay nets and water buckets and mucking out followed by a 30-minute ride and a one-hour classroom-based session. The cost for each child is around £1,500. RfS has bid to Children in Need for Funding.

