



Rucstall
PRIMARY SCHOOL



March News

The Official Newsletter of Rucstall Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of my first term at Rucstall, I wanted to take a moment to share how much of a pleasure it has been to join this wonderful school community. From the very first day, the children have impressed me with their **exemplary behaviour**, their **polite and friendly nature**, and the genuine care they show for our environment. It has been inspiring to see pupils of all ages working together to keep our grounds clean and to take responsibility for their belongings. Their pride in our school shines through every day. This term, we have focused on enriching playtimes and creating opportunities for children to be active, engaged and happy. Thanks to the children's hard work and enthusiasm, we have been able to provide **new playground equipment**, and I am delighted that our **Year 5 pupils, teaching assistants and lunchtime volunteers** have all taken part in **Playtime Leaders training**. This will make a positive difference, and we hope it will make playtimes even more enjoyable for everyone.



Looking ahead, we have more exciting developments planned. After Easter, some year groups will be taking part in **scooter and skateboard training**, supported by external specialists. We have also invested in a set of **balance bikes for our younger children**, who have already taken part in a balance-bike workshop and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the storage shed.

At Rucstall, we want every child to feel happy, active and included during breaktimes, and these initiatives are part of our commitment to giving them the very best experiences, both in and out of the classroom.

Finally, I want to say a heartfelt thank you for your support this term. **Parental engagement is key**, and research consistently shows the positive impact it has on children's development, wellbeing and education. I truly appreciate the warm welcome you have given me and the partnership we are already building together.

Wishing you all a **wonderful, restful holiday**. Take care, stay safe, and I look forward to seeing everyone back for the new term.

Rachel Hughlock, Headteacher

REMINDERS

Please do read these newsletters to keep up to speed with news from the school. A few reminders are included below, as well as our Diary Dates for the upcoming term. The website also contains all dates, which you can link to your own electronic calendars also.

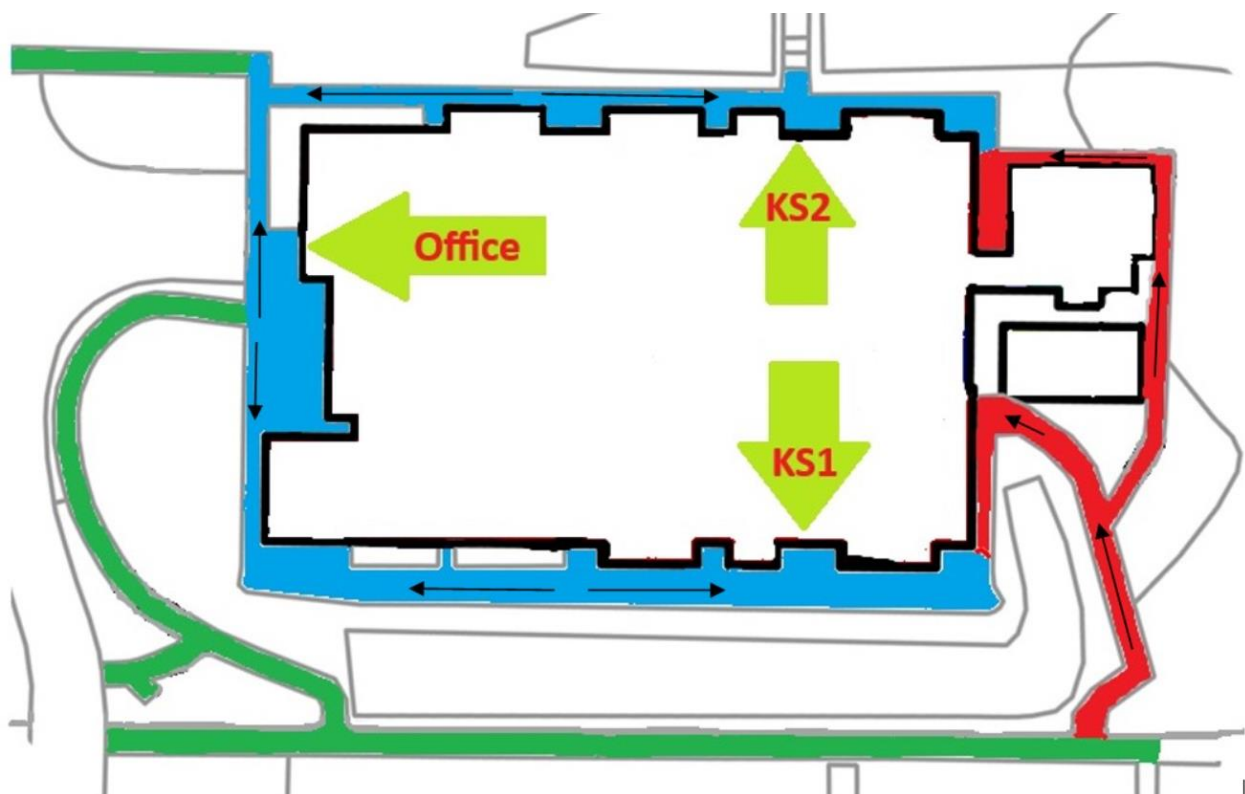
Nuts: Please could you ensure that you do not send your child into school with ANY nuts. This includes pistachio, pinenuts, almonds, cashew, walnuts, brazil and pecan nuts. We have children in school with **severe nut allergies** so we must ensure our school is completely nut free. Thank you for being vigilant in helping to safeguard our children.



Labels: As we reach the halfway point of the year, please remember to label everything - names are starting to rub off jumpers.

School Library: Just a friendly reminder that the Key Stage One Library is open for parents on Mondays and Fridays from 3:20 to 3:40 please come and go from the library, this is the door before the cloakroom door.

Drop off: We operate a one-way system for dropping off your children in the morning. This helps to keep everyone moving and ensures the children can get to their classrooms in a timely fashion. We appreciate that some parents are dropping off at both KS1 and KS2 and therefore two way traffic is necessary, but as you are aware narrow pathways around the school do create pinchpoints. Therefore we ask that the red areas on the map are one way only to avoid congestion and hazards.



UNIFORM UPDATE

From after the Easter holidays, the children can wear their PE fleece as part of their normal uniform if they wish. They can still use their fleece for PE, or alternatively can wear a plain black tracksuit top.

From September, the school jumper, cardigan or fleece can be worn as part of the normal uniform. The fleece will no longer be worn for PE and instead the children can wear a plain black tracksuit top.

This decision has been made after listening to the children as many of them find the fleece more comfortable to wear during the school day.

RECENT EVENTS

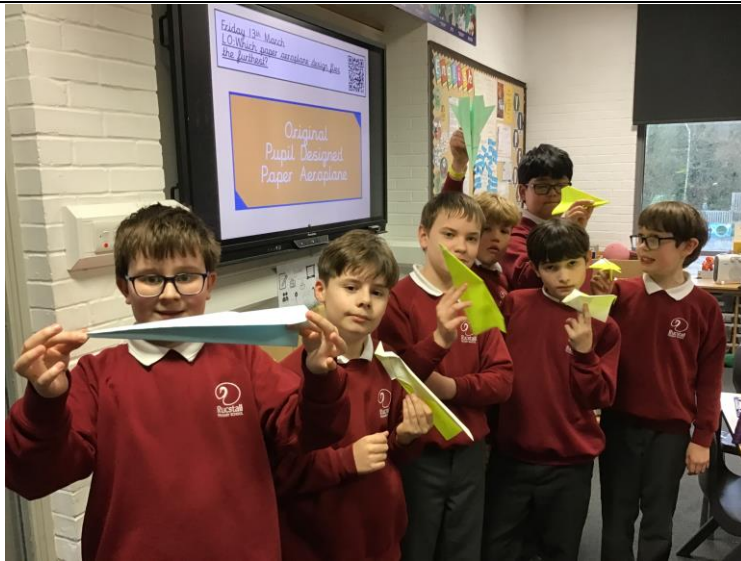
Netball

A huge well done to our netball team who played brilliantly in the finals this week. Their hard work and teamwork shone through and we're thrilled to announce that they've made it through to the regional competition!



British Science Week: Celebrating Curiosity.

6-15th March was British Science Week, we joined schools across the country in celebrating this year's theme of "Curiosity: What's Your Question?". Children took part in a range of hands-on activities and experiments, all designed to spark curiosity and nurture a love of science. Their enthusiasm has been wonderful to see.



World Book Day

Our pupils had a brilliant World Book Day, staff and children looked amazing dressed as their favourite characters. Thank you for supporting this important day and helping to foster a love of reading. Here are a few photos from the day, more are available on our school website.



Lunchtime Leader Training

Year 5 took part in a fantastic Lunchtime Leader training session this week, supported by our parent volunteers and lunchtime staff. The session was delivered by Hampshire Outdoors, the Hampshire County Council team specialising in outdoor learning and training.



Eid

As the holy month came to an end, we shared our warmest wishes with all our Muslim families who celebrated Eid. We hope the occasion brought joy, peace and togetherness to you and your loved ones.

Red Nose Day

For Red Nose Day, the children enjoyed wearing non-uniform, with many proudly dressed in red. Our kitchen team added to the fun by preparing special themed puddings. Thanks to your generosity, we raised £224 for Comic Relief.



Rocksteady Concert

Well done to our pupils taking part in Rocksteady Music lessons - we loved hearing how all your hard work has paid off!



Year 4 – Weald & Downland Trip

Year 4 enjoyed their visit to the Weald & Downland Museum as part of their Anglo-Saxon history learning. Despite the delay on the day, the children had a wonderful time exploring the site and taking part in the activities.



CAR PARK – KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE!

Please can we remind everyone to drive **slowly** and **carefully**, especially in the school car park. We all want to keep our children safe.

Please make sure you are watching your children at all times and **please do not use your phone** while walking through the car park.

Please keep the path and gateway clear so people can walk home safely.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

NEWS FROM COSTELLO

This week our cluster schools and the Headteacher of The Costello School (our feeder secondary school) met.

Mr Conway was pleased to share the positive responses they had received from new Year 7 parents regarding how their children had settled in and how transition went this year. The move from Year 6 to Year 7 is always an anxious time for children and parents, so it was lovely to hear such positive feedback on the experience for our children who moved on to The Costello School.

Parent feedback included:

“The school made the transition to secondary a lot smoother than I had expected.”

“Thank you to everyone at Costello for the truly outstanding care and support provided. The positive impact this has had during the transition into secondary school has been remarkable, helping to build confidence and happiness in a way that has made a real difference. It has also had a hugely positive effect on family life. Your dedication and support are deeply appreciated. Thank you so much.”

“They really took the time to understand what was needed and supported every stage of the transition, which made a huge difference.”

“It’s been such a positive change for our family and we’ve seen a real difference in confidence and happiness at home.”

SCHOOL SPACES

We have a few spaces across the school in Years 3 and 4. If you know of anyone looking for a school space for their child, please ask them to get in touch. Every space filled does really make a difference to our school and what we can do for our children.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Year 1: Trip to the Watercress Line 4.6.26

Year 4: Rivers Trip 2.6.26

Year 5: Portsmouth and the Isle of White 4.6.26

Year 3: Longleat Safari Park 23/6/26

Year 6: Paultons Park 29.6.26 – Part of the Year 6 Enrichment Week

More details to follow about these trips after Easter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 13th April – Scootability/Skateability – The children will have some training on how to scoot and use a skateboard safely. Look out for the photos in the next newsletter!

Friday 17th April – Happy Bags Collections – The bags have been sent home this week and are being collected on Friday 17th April.

What we collect

We accept:

- ✓ Adults and children's clothing
- ✓ Paired shoes
- ✓ Handbags, belts, hats, jewellery
- ✓ Toiletries, perfumes,
- ✓ Souvenirs, unwanted gifts

Please ensure that all items placed in the bags are in good REUSABLE condition. Please ensure that the bags remain dry on rainy days. Thank you

If unsure about anything, please call us on 0170 868 5071

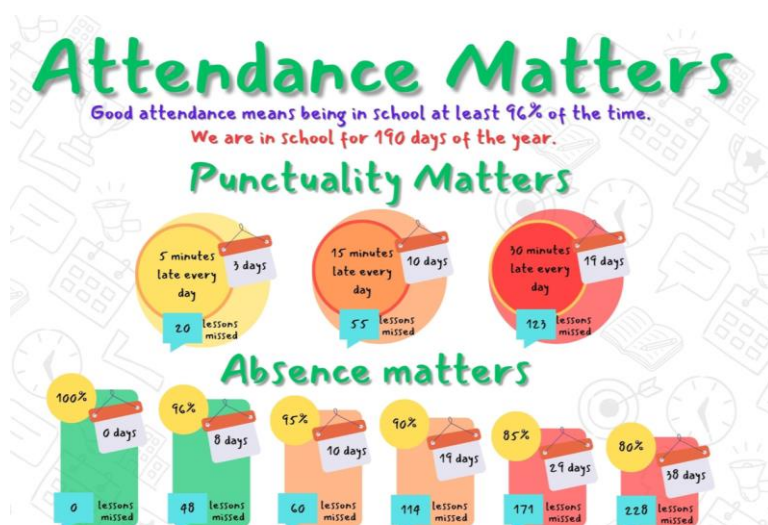
We do not accept:

- ✗ Uniforms, underclothing
- ✗ Bric-a-brac, toys, DVD'S, CD's
- ✗ Rugs, blankets, curtains, books
- ✗ Household linen, pillows, duvets
- ✗ DIRTY, DAMAGED, or WET clothes

Tuesday 16th June – Monday 22nd June – Book Fair – Join us in the hall after school to buy some books!

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The total attendance across the school for February was 95.62%. Well done to Rowan class for the highest attendance of 97.72%.



STAYING ORGANISED

Communicating with the school.

Please direct messages and enquiries to our office team, they will ensure your communication finds the correct person and who will action. **For any absence, please call the school office rather than send in an email.**

Please be mindful that all our staff have additional duties and commitments, they are therefore not available for immediate communication. Allow 5 working days for a response.

School office opening hours – Term Time - Monday to Friday - 8.30am to 4pm.
Email: adminoffice@rucstall.hants.sch.uk Tel: 01256 466524

Alternatively, to relay short face-to-face messages to the class teacher, this can be done when collecting your child at the classroom door at the end of the school day.

Medication and Forms

Each academic year we are required to have a new medical form, for each medication we are required to administer (this includes Inhalers).

- We have emailed instructions to all parents of pupils with known medications. Please check and action this email.
- Any pupils no-longer requiring medication, please let the office staff know.
- Any new medical concerns must be brought to the office team's attention directly.

It is parents' responsibility to ensure the medical information held at school for your child is correct and up to date.

Children will NOT be able to take part in any off-site activities without the correct medications and up to date forms.

Everything Looks the Same as Everyone Else's!

Pupils from Year R all the way up to Year 6 lose multiple items every day. We will always help pupils look for lost items, it really does make that job a lot easier if the item is named.

Please ensure your child has their name on everything that belongs to them. Un-named items tend to get lost forever.

P.E Kits

P.E kits need to be in all week so that the pupils have access to them at all times. P.E lessons may need to be moved last minute or kit maybe used for other lessons.

School Dinners

Pupils in KS2 (year 3 and above) unless they are intitled to free school meals, need to pay for their school lunches. School lunches are £3 a lunch. Funds are paid into the class account, in advance of any school dinners required for the week, as the school cannot allow debt to accrue.

Finding Information

All information is sent to you via ParentMail any letters sent out are also uploaded on to the website under the Parent tab. Diary dates can be found on the website on the calendar tab and are sent out with details on the newsletters. Before contacting the office, please check ParentMail and the website.

Calendar

We have the school calendar on the school's website to ensure you always have easy access to the diary dates. You can also subscribe to this calendar right there on the website and it will sync with your own diary, keeping you up to date with all your child's events and activities.

Diary Dates for the Summer term

Date	Event
Monday 13 th April	Scootability/Skateability - Year 1 - 6
Friday 17 th April	Happy Bags Collection
Wednesday 22 nd April	Open the Book Assembly
Friday 8 th May	Outdoor learning - Year 4 - 2pm -3pm
Monday 11 th May	KS2 SATs - GPAS
	Year 6 Breakfast at 8.15am
Tuesday 12 th May	KS2 SATS - Reading
	Year 6 Breakfast at 8.15am
Wednesday 13 th May	KS2 SATS - Maths
	Year 6 Breakfast at 8.15am
Thursday 14 th May	KS2 SATS - Maths
	Year 6 Breakfast at 8.15am
Friday 15 th May	Outdoor learning - Year 6 - 2pm -3pm
Monday 18 th May	Year 6 Residential meeting 3.30pm
Tuesday 19 th May	RSE meeting 5pm -6pm
Wednesday 20 th May	Open the Book Assembly
Thursday 21 st May	Census Day
	PTFA Disco KS1 3.15pm - 4,15pm KS2 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Friday 22 nd May	Outdoor learning - Year 5 - 2pm -3pm
HALF TERM	
Monday 1 st June	Swimming 9.30am-11am - Year 4, 5 and 6
	Year 5 to Costello to watch production
Tuesday 2 nd June	Year 4 Rivers Trip

Wednesday 3 rd June	New EYFS Welcome Meeting 5pm
Thursday 4 th June	Year 1 trip to the Watercress Line
Friday 5 th June	Outdoor learning – Year 3 – 2pm -3pm
Monday 1 st June – Friday 12 th June	Year 4 - MTC
Monday 8 th June – Friday 12 th June	Phonics screening
Monday 8 th June	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4, 5 and 6
Thursday 11 th June	Year 5 Hovercraft Trip
Friday 12 th June	Outdoor learning – Year 2 – 2pm -3pm
Monday 15 th June	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 16 th June – Monday 22 nd June	Book Fair 3.15pm – 4pm
Thursday 18 th June	Class Photos. Siblings at 8am
Friday 19 th June	Men’s Appreciation Event
Monday 22 nd June	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 23 rd June	Year 6 Sport’s Day at Costello 9.30am – 12.30am
	Year 3 Trip to Longleat
Wednesday 24 th June	Year 5 Taster Day @ Costello
Thursday 25 th June – Friday 26 th June	Year 6 Basingstoke Schools Transition Days
Friday 26 th June	Outdoor learning – Year 1 – 2pm -3pm
Monday 29 th June	Internal testing week
	Year 6 trip to Paulton’s Park
	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 30 th June	Year 6 STEM day
Wednesday 1 st July	Open the Book Assembly
	Wellbeing Wednesday
Thursday 2 nd July	Outdoor learning – Year R – 2pm -3pm

Wednesday 1 st July - Friday 3 rd July	Year 6 Residential
Monday 6 th July	Swimming 9.30am-11am - Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 7 th July	Rock Steady Concert
Friday 10 th July	Sports Day and Parent Picnic (early finish)
Tuesday 14 th July	Parent Showcase 3.10pm - 3.30pm
Friday 17 th July	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 17 th July	Reports out
Monday 20 th July	Move up morning
	New EYFS Welcome Event (in Early Years) Group 1 - 9am -9.45am Group 2 - 10am - 10.45am Group 3 - 11am -11.45am
	Summer Fair PTFA Cake Sale
Tuesday 21 st July	Year 6 Homework Treat
	Leavers Party 15.30pm - 5pm
	Books to go home
Wednesday 22 nd July	Year 6 Leaver's Assembly
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	

INSET days for 2027/2027 academic year:

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Friday 2nd October
Friday 27th November
Monday 4th January
Friday 28th May