



Rucstall
PRIMARY SCHOOL



April News

The Official Newsletter of Rucstall Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is always a pleasure to reflect on the many marvellous things that happen at Rucstall each day. Our school is full of learning, creativity and care, with children enjoying a wide range of enriching opportunities both in and beyond the classroom.

From exciting trips and events to clubs, sport and outdoor learning, there is so much to celebrate and of which we can be proud.

Celebration is one of our core values, and this has been truly embodied by the exceptional success of our netball team. Their achievement at county level is an incredible accomplishment and reflects not only their skill, but also their teamwork, determination and respect. They have been fantastic ambassadors for our school and we are all immensely proud of them.

As we approach SATs, I would like to wish all of our Year 6 children the very best. They have worked incredibly hard and should feel confident in all they have achieved. We are enormously proud of them and will be supporting them every step of the way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our wonderful school community.



Warmest Regards

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.

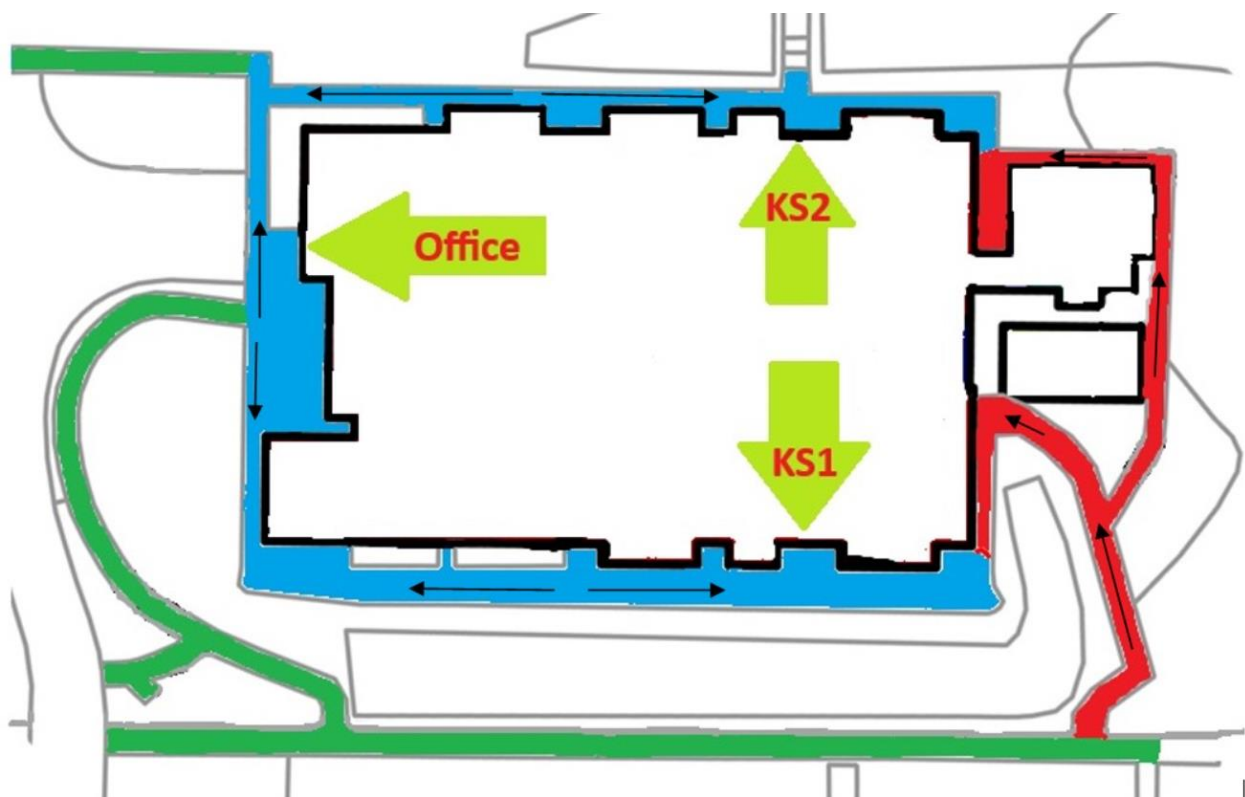
Nuts: Please could you ensure that you do not send your child into school with ANY nuts. This includes pistachio, pinenuts, almonds, cashew, walnuts, brazil and pecan nuts. We have children in school with **severe nut allergies** so we must ensure our school is completely nut free. Thank you for being 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 the Key Stage Two Library on Fridays, both 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.



RECENT EVENTS

Happy School Bag collection – Thank you to those of you that bought in your bags to be collected. This raised just over £82 for the school – every little helps. We have more dates booked in for future collections in the next academic year.



Scootability and Skateability - Years 2 to 6 had a fantastic time taking part in our Skateboard Safety Workshop, learning essential skills to ride safely and confidently, while Year 1 enjoyed an interactive Scooter Safety Workshop.



Easter activities - Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in the Easter Fair and cake sale. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, and we are especially grateful to the PTFA for all their hard work in organising the event.

The children had lots of fun on our easter egg hunt, following the clues and collecting the treasure to attach to their wreaths. Well done everyone, your wreaths looked amazing!



You may have seen that Mrs Earl has set up a beautiful art display around our Rucstall swan, showcasing Year 2's sculpture work from their art unit. The pieces are made from recycled materials, and replicate the work of the artist Michelle Reader. Please take in their hard work, and admire the sculptures on your way in and out of school today. Mrs Earl has politely requested that you do not touch any of the art work, or let any younger children touch, as the sculptures are fragile and the children have put a lot of hard work into them. If you have any feedback for the children, please don't hesitate to let the office know.



SPORTING SUCCESS

Hampshire KS2 Netball Tournament 25/26
Write-up by Mrs Healy

The day began with an impressive 22 schools, all of whom had finished first or second in their respective regional finals, coming together for a highly competitive netball tournament. Rucstall earned their place at the Hampshire Games Finals after securing 2nd place in the Basingstoke and Deane area, competing against 32 schools in the league and 14 in the finals.

The standard of play was exceptionally high, with schools representing a wide range of areas including Portsmouth, Gosport, the Isle of Wight, North East Hampshire, Basingstoke and Deane, and the New Forest. After a challenging morning of matches, teams were split into two sections, with Rucstall placed in the Plate competition league.

Across the afternoon, the team played six matches, winning five and drawing one. In the semi-final, Rucstall faced St James and delivered a confident 4-1 victory, securing their place in the final. There, they met St Martins—the team that had previously beaten them in the Basingstoke tournament. Despite understandable nerves among the players and Mrs Healy, the team rose to the challenge and produced an excellent performance, winning 5-3 to claim the Plate title.

This was a truly fantastic achievement and a first for Rucstall, and the team displayed remarkable dedication, determination, grit and respect throughout the entire tournament. A huge thank you must be given to all the parents for their continued support—travelling to Romsey and staying to cheer the children on meant so much to the team. A special thank you as well to Cerys for stepping in to umpire and support the players on the day. Well done to Jacob for achieving player of the match awarded by St Martins and Lillie for being named player of the tournament.



TEST VALLEY SCHOOL GAMES

Hampshire Netball

SCHOOL GAMES COUNTY FINALS
HAMPSHIRE KS2 NETBALL 2025/2026
YEAR 5/6 PLATE COMPETITION:
1ST PLACE
 Participating and demonstrating excellent enthusiasm and determination! Well done!

Chris Granger
 HAMPSHIRE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Holly Shirley
 TEST VALLEY SCHOOL GAMES ORGANISER

Energy Me, TEAM GB, ParalympicsGB, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Department of Health & Social Care, THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SPORT ENGLAND, SCHOOL GAMES

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.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Year 4: Rivers Trip 2.6.26

Year 1: Trip to the Watercress Line 4.6.26

Year 5: Hovercraft Trip 11.6.26

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Friday 10th July – Sports Day and Parent Picnic
(Friday 17th July – Reserve Sports Day)

Monday 20th July – Summer Fair and PTFA Cake Sale

PTFA UPDATE – SCHOOL DISCO THURSDAY 15th MAY

We are delighted to be holding our upcoming school disco on Thursday 21st May and are looking forward to a fun event for all the children. Tickets must be purchased by Friday 15th May.

Non-Uniform Day – PTFA Disco - To support our PTFA and their upcoming school disco, we will be holding a non-uniform day on the same day. This means children can stay in their own clothes all day and will not need to get changed for the disco. Thank you for your continued support of our PTFA events.

Year R, 1 and 2 – 3.15pm to 4.15pm

Children will be taken to the disco in the school hall by their class teacher. Parents and carers should collect their child from the hall at the end of the disco.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 – 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Children should be dropped off at the school hall at the start of the disco. Cash will be required for the tuck shop. All children, including those in Year 6, must be collected from the hall by a parent or designated adult.

After School Club (ACE or Quackers)

Please arrange directly with the club if they are able to take children to and/or collect them from the disco.

Booking deadline: Friday 15th May

Please pay online stating your child's full name and class, and complete the booking form.

Volunteers needed

If you are able to help, please email rucstallptfa@gmail.com stating which disco you can support.

Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to a fantastic event.

Rucstall PTFA



DISCO
THURSDAY 21ST MAY

YEAR R, 1 & 2 - 3.15 TO 4.15PM
YEAR 3,4,5 & 6 - 4.30 TO 5.30PM

£4.50 PER CHILD

PLEASE PAY AND COMPLETE THE BOOKING FORM
USING THE BUTTONS BELOW BY FRIDAY 15TH MAY

PAY NOW  **BOOK NOW** 

YEAR R, 1 & 2 INCLUDES A PACKET OF CRISPS, SWEETS & DRINK

YEAR 3, 4, 5 & 6 INCLUDES A PACKET OF CRISPS, SWEETS & DRINK PLUS TUCK SHOP - CASH REQUIRED

CHARITY NUMBER: 1020158



Summer Fair, Monday 20th July. The PTFA are asking for raffle prize donations, please see the poster below for more information:



The poster features a light blue background with a bokeh effect of white and yellow circles. In the top left corner, there are two overlapping ticket stubs, one orange and one green, both with the word 'Ticket' written on them. In the top right corner, there is a red heart logo containing a white silhouette of a swan, with the text 'Rucstall Parent, Teacher and Friends Association' below it. The main text is in large, bold, dark red letters: 'RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED'. Below this, in a smaller green font, it says 'Rucstall PTFA will be holding a raffle at our Summer Fair on Monday 20th July.' Further down, in a smaller green font, it says 'Whether you are a parent or local business, your contribution - big or small - can make a huge difference.' Below that, there is an envelope icon followed by the text 'Please contact us via our Facebook page or email: rucstallptfa@gmail.com'. At the bottom, in a purple font, it says 'Thank you for your support'. At the very bottom, in a small black font, it says 'Charity number: 1020158'.

UNIFORM/SUMMER WEATHER

A letter has recently gone out regarding keeping safe in the summer months.

Please remember to:

- Be vigilant regarding tics, using the preventative spray if desired and thoroughly and regularly checking your children for ticks
- Sun Cream: Parents should apply long-lasting, high-factor sun protection (SPF 50+ with UVA protection) before children arrive at school.
- Please send your children into school with a sun hat daily.
- Children must bring in a water bottle to school every day.
- Summer uniform can be worn. This includes grey shorts (boys and girls) and summer dresses.



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The total attendance across the school for March was 95.57%. Well done to Rowan class for the highest attendance of 98.86%.

Attendance Matters

Good attendance means being in school at least 96% of the time.

We are in school for 190 days of the year.

Punctuality Matters



Absence matters



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
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
	Non uniform day for all year groups
	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 22nd 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
Thursday 16 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