



Rucstall  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# May News

The Official Newsletter of Rucstall Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and successful half term, I would like to take a moment to say how incredibly proud I am of our Year 6 children. They have approached their SATs with determination, resilience and a really positive attitude. They have worked exceptionally hard and should feel very proud of everything they have achieved.



Beyond their academic effort, our Year 6 pupils continue to demonstrate what it truly means to be a role model at Rucstall Primary. Whether they are leading play on the playground, supporting younger children, or simply showing kindness and respect in their day-to-day interactions, they set a wonderful example for others to follow. Their politeness, maturity and sense of responsibility reflect the very best of our school community.

This does not happen by chance. It is a credit to you, our parents and carers, for the values you instil in your children. The encouragement, guidance and high expectations you provide at home play a vital role in shaping them into the thoughtful, respectful and hardworking individuals we see every day in school.

At Rucstall, we firmly believe that it is the partnership between home and school that enables our children to thrive. By working together, we support our children to become well-rounded individuals who try their very best and that is all we ever ask of them.

Thank you for your continued support, for teaching your children to be polite and considerate, and for always encouraging them to do their best. Together, we truly do make a difference for the children at Rucstall Primary School.

Warmest Regards

Rachel Hughlock  
Headteacher



## RECENT EVENTS

Year 6 enjoyed a well-earned treat this week, cooking and sharing delicious fajitas as they began to unwind after a busy week of SATs. It was a lovely way to relax, have fun together and celebrate all of their hard work!



Thank you to everyone who took part in Walk to School Week – it was lovely to see so many children walking, scooting and cycling to school. These small changes make a big difference, helping children stay active and reducing traffic around school.

A special thank you to those who joined Mr Blake's walking bus from Black Dam ponds – your support helped make the journey to school safer, healthier and more enjoyable for everyone.



## HEALTHY EATING AT SCHOOL

We'd like to remind all of our families of the expectations around lunchboxes and snacks to help keep children safe and well throughout the school day.

These expectations form part of the consent booklet shared when your child joined the school, and we really appreciate your continued support in following this guidance. Please take a moment to revisit the guidance below:



### FOOD AND DRINK EXPECTATIONS

- Please be aware that we are a NUT FREE school. This includes, no peanut butter or hazelnut spreads or items including nuts e.g. chocolate bars.
- Children are only permitted to have water within their water bottles. Squash or other drinks are not permitted unless directed by a medical practitioner in writing directly to the school.
- We also ask parents to ensure that break time snacks and lunches are healthy. We would not expect more than one chocolate item within a child's lunchbox. Sandwiches should not be chocolate spread, as this is often nut related. If you have concerns about your child's eating at school, then please do speak to the school office who can talk to the class teacher and lunchtime team who can monitor and support.
- Children in EYFS and Key Stage One are provided snacks and should not bring food in to school. Children in Key Stage Two can bring in a healthy non-chocolate snack. In all eventualities, any non-food waste will return home via children's lunchboxes/bags in Key Stage Two.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe and promote healthy habits across the school.

## PAPAYA TALKS: PARENT WEBINARS (JUNE 2026)

As part of our work with the Smartphone Free Basingstoke collective, we'd like to share two upcoming parent webinars delivered by Papaya Talks.

Papaya Talks is a UK organisation that works with schools and families to support healthier relationships with smartphones, social media and screen use. Their sessions are informative, practical and designed to help parents feel confident in supporting their children.

### Webinar details:

Year R & KS1

Tuesday 9 June, 8.00 – 8.45pm

[How to Get the Balance Right with Screens from the Start](#)

KS2

Tuesday 16 June, 8.00–8.45pm

[Let's Talk About Our Kids and Their Tech](#)

Further information is included in the attached flyer.

### Please note:

As a reminder, from September 2026, children will not be permitted to bring smartphones into school.

## 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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day and Parent Picnic  
(Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Reserve Sports Day)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Fair and PTFA Cake Sale

## PTFA UPDATE

School Disco: Thank you to everyone who supported the school disco – we hope all the pupils had a fantastic time! A big thank you to the parents and staff who gave their time to help make the evening such a success.



Summer Fair, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 circles. In the top left corner, there are two overlapping tickets, one orange and one green, both with the word 'Ticket' written on them. In the top right corner, there is a red heart logo with a white silhouette of a person inside, and the text 'Rucstall Parent, Teacher and Friends Association' below it. The main text is in large, bold, red letters: 'RAFFLE PRIZE' and 'DONATIONS NEEDED'. Below this, in green text, it says 'Rucstall PTFA will be holding a raffle at our Summer Fair on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July.' Further down, in green text, it says 'Whether you are a parent or local business, your contribution - big or small - can make a huge difference.' Below that, in purple text, it says 'Please contact us via our Facebook page or email: rucstallptfa@gmail.com'. At the bottom, in purple text, it says 'Thank you for your support' and in small black text, '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 ticks, 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 April was 95.89%. Well done to Rowan class for the highest attendance of 97.42%.

# 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](mailto: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.

## 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.



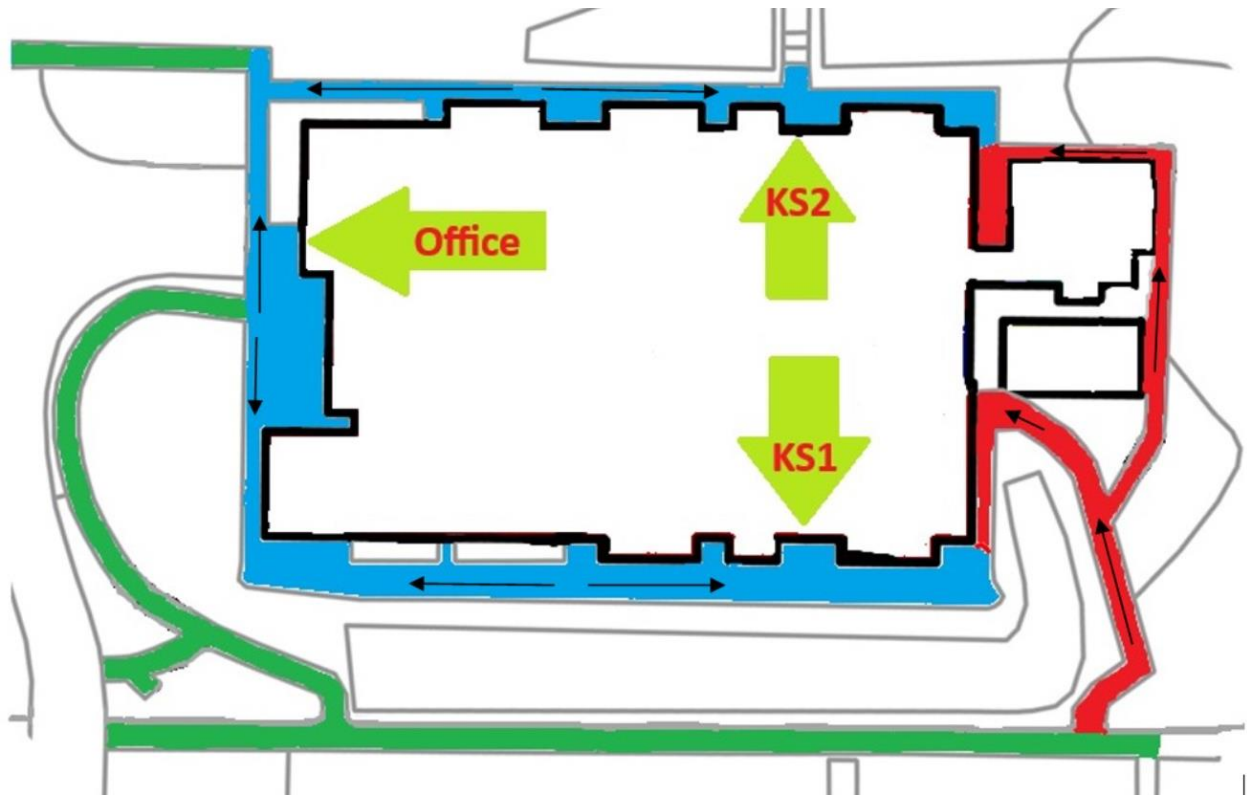
Labels: As we reach the halfway point of the year, please remember to label everything - names are starting to rub off jumpers.

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.

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.

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.



### Diary Dates for the Summer term

Date	Event
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4, 5 and 6
	Year 5 to Costello to watch production
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 4 Rivers Trip
	Outdoor learning – Year 3 – 2pm -3pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	New EYFS Welcome Meeting 5pm

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 trip to the Watercress Line
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 - MTC
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics screening
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Outdoor learning – Year 2 – 2pm -3pm
	Papaya webinar for Year R/KS1 – 8pm Link will be sent out nearer the time
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Hovercraft Trip
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June – Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Book Fair 3.15pm – 4pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Papaya webinar for KS2 – 8pm Link will be sent out nearer the time
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photos. Siblings at 8am
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Men’s Appreciation Event
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 3 trip to Longleat
	Outdoor learning – Year 1 – 2pm -3pm
	Year 6 Sport’s Day at Costello 9.30am – 12.30am
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Taster Day @ Costello
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Basingstoke Schools Transition Days
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Internal testing week
	Year 6 trip to Paulton’s Park
	Swimming 9.30am-11am – Year 4 and 5
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 STEM day
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 Residential
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Open the Book Assembly
	Wellbeing Wednesday

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Outdoor learning - Year R - 2pm -3pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Swimming 9.30am-11am - Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Rock Steady Concert
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School Art Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day and Parent Picnic (early finish)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Parent Showcase 3.10pm - 3.30pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports out
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve Sports Day
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 6 Homework Treat
	Leavers Party 15.30pm - 5pm
	Books to go home
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 Leaver's Assembly
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	

INSET days for 2026/2027 academic year:

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