



January News

The Official Newsletter of Rucstall Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be writing my first newsletter at Rucstall Primary School. This month has flown by, and I feel incredibly fortunate to lead a school with such wonderfully well-behaved and considerate children. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the staff, pupils and parents who have made me feel so welcome. If I have yet to meet you, please do come and say hello - you will often find me at the gates in the mornings.



I am also thrilled to welcome our new member of staff, Mrs Dalton-Hunt, who joins us as a Teaching Assistant and ELSA. Mrs Dalton-Hunt brings a wealth of experience and a genuine passion for supporting our children's emotional and social development. She has settled in quickly, and I am delighted she has joined our team. With the right support, we believe every child can thrive, and Mrs Dalton-Hunt will play a crucial role in ensuring that our students feel understood and valued.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, I look forward to working closely with you to provide the best possible education for our pupils.

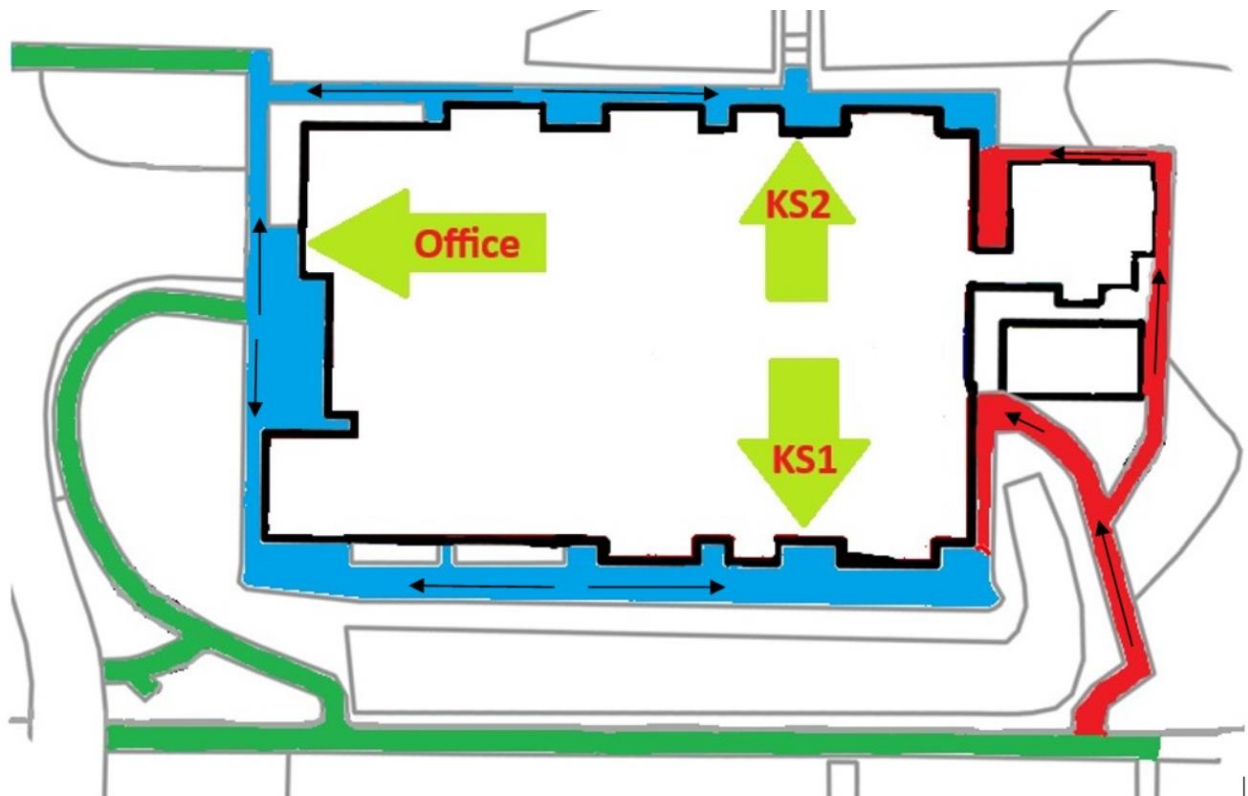
Rachel Hughlock
Headteacher



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.

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

Year 5 trip to the Gordon Brown Centre

To start the new year with a bang, Year 5 were invited to an activity-packed day at the Gordon Brown Centre in Hook where they had opportunities to experience a taster of what a residential is like. Upon arrival, they were thrust straight in to a team building exercise by competing across a Trim Trail assault course that included high walls, tyre runs, army crawls. There was even a huge balance board that each group had to position themselves across to balance their weight - it was tricky fun! All of the children enjoyed supported one another and racing against time to complete the course. This was just the start, as the rest of the day included time visiting the animals at the Center - including goats, donkeys, rabbits and chicken - and competing in an archery contest with points for knocking over toys, cans and zombie masks all whilst learning how to weave a bracelet too! The day came to an end with a fantastic camp fire in which children were able to sit together, toast marshmallows and eat s'mores as they reflected on the day's fun! The satisfaction on their faces summarised the whole day as everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and left smiling and eager to tell their families all about their day.



Netball sporting success

Our Year 5 and 6 netball team recently travelled to St Johns for an away game. They came away with a 9-5 win - the first time we have won against them in at least 5 years! Mrs Healy was very proud of their effort and sportsmanship on the day.



Year 5 and 6 Athletics event at Costello

Mrs Healy took a group of Year 5 and 6 children to Costello to take part in an Indoor Athletics Event. The children took part in a variety of events including relays, chest push, javelin and long jump. All the children participated really well, with a special mention to William Bate for coming first out of 20 boys in standing triple jump.



Snow Days

The children were thrilled to be able to go and play outside when it snowed back at the start of January. Many of them were heard saying it 'was their best day ever' and some of the children had never seen snow before. Luckily for us, there was enough snow for them to play with, but not too much to cause any disruption!



CAR PARK – KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE!

Our local CSPO (Community Safety Patrol Officer) has been out patrolling the car park in the morning in our efforts to keep the car park a safe place for everyone. We would like to remind you of ways you can help:

- Watch your children in the car park at all times
- Arrive slightly earlier to allow more time to park safely
- Consider parking further away and walking to school
- Do not park in the middle of the car park (see photograph below)

We have had a number of near misses in the car park and need to work together to keep everyone safe.



UPCOMING TRIPS

Weald and Downland Museum Year 4 -11/3/25

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent Consultations: These will take place on Tuesday 10th February and Thursday 12th February. Booking is now open.

PTFA EGM: This is happening on Monday 9th February and will be a short 20 minute meeting. Please show your support if you can.

Year 6 SAT's information evening. A letter will be coming out about this in due course.

Please also see the attached diary dates.

PTFA UPDATE



After the success of the Christmas Fayre, we have been lucky enough to receive a match funding cheque from Barclays Bank for £1000. This money will be put to good use by the PTFA for invaluable resources and experiences for the children during their time at Rucstall.

BASINGSTOKE SMARTPHONE-FREE SCHOOLS UPDATE

In June 2025, the Basingstoke-wide "Smartphone Free" initiative was launched with 33 schools taking part, representing the vast majority of Basingstoke children. This came from a place of deep concern around recent research and statistics which show the negative impact that tech and smartphones can have at all ages.

On the back of this, we're pleased to offer more free webinars for parents, which cover:

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
 - Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology

Dates for your diary! The dates are:

- Tuesday 3rd Feb 7:30pm - 8:15pm - [Link here](#)
- Thursday 26th Feb 6pm - 6:45pm - [Link here](#)

Each webinar is the same, so you only need to attend one. No need to pre-register. We would love for every parent in Basingstoke to have attended 1 of these webinars!

See you there!

Basingstoke Smartphone-Free Schools
<https://www.smartphonefreebasingstoke.org>

GOVERNOR VACANCIES

We currently have a vacancy for two Parent Governors on our Governing Body. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a meaningful strategic impact on our children's education

and help shape the future of our school. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the school office for an application form.

We also have a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor. This role is based on the skills and experience an individual can bring, and you do not need to be a parent at the school to apply. We would particularly welcome interest from people with experience in areas such as finance, HR, premises, IT or leadership, although this is not essential. Full training and support are provided. If someone you know might be interested in supporting the school in this way, we would be grateful if you could pass this information on.

Further information on both these roles can be found here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors/volunteer>

We appreciate your support.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The total attendance across the school for December was 95.2%. Well done to Willow class for the highest attendance of 97.56%.

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

Date	Event
Wednesday 4th February	Open the book assembly
Monday 9th February	PTFA EGM
Tuesday 10th February	Parent Consultations
Thursday 12th February	Parent Consultations
HALF TERM	
Monday 23rd February	INSET Day 4
Tuesday 24th February	Year 6 SAT's information meeting 3.30pm
Wednesday 4th March	Wellbeing Wednesday
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
	First aid workshop for children (during the school day)
	Parents first aid workshop
Friday 6th March	First aid workshop for children (during the school day)
Monday 9th March	Year R height, weight and vision
Wednesday 11th March	Year 4 trip to Weald and Downland Museum
Tuesday 17th March	Rocksteady Concert at 2:30pm
	On line safety meeting 5pm
Wednesday 18th March	Open the book assembly
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief
Tuesday 24th March	Non-uniform day in return for an Easter Egg
Wednesday 25th March	Parent Showcase
Thursday 26th March	Easter Egg Hunt during the school day
	PTFA Easter Fayre
Friday 27th March	INSET Day 5

