Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Rucstall PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Term One

The Official Newsletter of Rucstall Primary School

Welcome Back



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy half term, I would like to thank all of our pupils, families and staff for their continued support. A special welcome goes to our new Reception children, who have settled into school life so well. We have been delighted to see the confidence, enthusiasm and friendships already developing as they begin their journey at Rucstall.

This half term has been full of opportunities for children to learn, explore and grow. From developing their reading and learning in the classroom to memorable visits to Butser Ancient Farm and Milestones Museum, the children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm. We have also been proud of the kindness and community spirit shown during our Harvest Festival and Food Bank collection.

Thank you for your engagement with our parent perspective meeting and our parent consultations, and for your continued support with learning at home. The strong partnership between home and school plays an important role in helping every child thrive.

Thank you also to our PTFA for their ongoing support and the opportunities they provide for our school community.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term.

Mrs Kirkham
Headteacher



CHAIR OF GOVERNOR'S UPDATE



Welcome back to a new school year!

I hope that all our pupils, families and staff had a wonderful summer and are returning refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

There's already cause for celebration, and I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating our Headteacher, Mrs Kirkham, on her marriage over the summer break. I'd also like to congratulate Mr Blake on his successful appointment as Head of School at a local school, starting in the new calendar year. We wish him every success in his exciting new role.

I'd also like to extend a special welcome to all those who have joined the Rucstall community in Year R. I've become a school parent myself this year, but so quickly does the time pass that I've already found myself welcoming prospective parents at our first open days of the year!

There is a real sense of excitement about the year ahead at school. As a Governing Board, we are looking forward to supporting the school as it continues to develop and grow, building on the progress made over recent years while also looking ahead to what comes next.

Our priorities for the next three years are Early Years, English, and Culture & Leadership. Whether as pupils, parents or staff, we all have an important role to play in the school's journey, and I am looking forward to chatting with many of you as we work together to make these priorities a reality. One particularly important piece of work this year will be the development of our school values. Our values help to shape the culture and character of our school, influencing not only how we learn, but also how we treat one another and contribute to our wider community.

Thank you to all those parents who attended our recent coffee morning and shared their views. I'm incredibly excited to hear from our pupils next, starting with the Pupil Leaders, alongside a number of exercises and assemblies designed to seek input from the whole school community. The aim is for the final outcome to reflect the views and aspirations of our community and, ultimately, the school we want to be.

I am also delighted to share that the Governing Board has appointed a new Deputy Headteacher, following Mr Blake's exciting new opportunity. This is an important appointment for the school, and we are very pleased to have secured someone who will bring valuable experience and leadership to our team. We will share more information about the appointment in due course.

I would also like to personally thank pupils in Years 3–6 for their excellent engagement in our Deputy Headteacher teaching assessments, as well as all the wonderful introductions made to me by pupils across the school. I felt a real sense of pride watching how confidently and enthusiastically our young people interacted with prospective candidates and Governors. They are a real credit to the school, to their teachers and to you as parents.

I'm looking forward to keeping parents and carers updated as the year progresses. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to say hello when I am on the gate or get in touch with the school office.

Wishing everyone a happy, successful and enjoyable school year

Mr Fisher
Chair of Governors

RECENT EVENTS

Harvest Festival

Last week, the children came together for our Harvest Assembly to celebrate harvest time. A huge thank you to all our families for your generous food donations, which will be passed on to our local Food Bank. Your support is very much appreciated







Year 1 – Milestones trip

Fir Class had a fantastic day at Milestones Museum, learning about the history of toys through a wide range of interactive exhibits. The children enjoyed discovering how toys have changed over the years while exploring the museum.









Year 3 - Butser Farm

Lime Class enjoyed an exciting visit to Butser Ancient Farm as part of their history learning about Stone Age to Iron Age Britain. From exploring ancient buildings to discovering how people lived thousands of years ago, there was plenty to see and do.









POPPY APEAL

Poppy items are available from the Office again this year, with a **suggested donation of £1 per item**. After half term, they will also be brought around to classes for children who would like to make a donation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 20th November – Tennis Taster Day

Friday 27th November – INSET DAY

Wednesday 2nd December – **Non-Uniform day** in return for bringing a Christmas hamper item.

Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th December – Nativity Performances (Year R/1/2)

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Lunch and Dress Christmassy Day

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Events Day

SAFEGUARDING

Keeping our children safe remains our highest priority. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Blake, Deputy Headteacher.

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs) are:

- Mrs Dalton-Hunt, Pastoral Lead
- Ms Baugh, Assistant Headteacher
- Miss Hughlock, Headteacher

Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school if they have any safeguarding concerns, however small they may seem. You can contact the school office on 01256 466524 / 01256 475108 or email dsl@rucstall.hants.sch.uk.

If you are worried about the welfare or safety of a child, you can also contact Hampshire Children's Services on 0300 555 1384. The out-of-hours service is 0300 555 1373. If a child is in immediate danger, always call 999.
Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We will continue to share safeguarding information, advice and useful resources through our newsletters and school communications.

ROAD SAFETY REMINDER

Please help us keep everyone safe by supervising children closely at all times when arriving at and leaving school.

We also ask all drivers to take extra care in and around the car park and surrounding roads, particularly during busy drop-off and collection times.

Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU, FOUR LANES TRUST

We are delighted to share that, thanks to a generous grant from the Four Lanes Trust, we have been able to enhance our library and reading resources.

The funding has enabled us to add a fantastic range of new books to our collection, including phonics books, graphic novels and a wider variety of titles to engage and inspire our readers. Our librarians have been diligently adding the new books to the library, and they are already proving popular with children across the school, with the graphic novels being a particular hit!

This funding has allowed us to fill important gaps in our library, giving more children access to books that support and inspire their reading.

We are incredibly grateful to the Four Lanes Trust for investing in our children and supporting reading opportunities within our school community. Thank you for helping us ensure more of our children can find books that interest, engage and support them.









PTFA UPDATE

Pumpkin Trail and Cake Sale

A huge thank you to the PTFA for organising the Woodland Pumpkin Walk and cake sale, and to everyone who came along to support them. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the events and helping to raise funds for the school. We hope everyone had a great time.



The PTFA are always in need of volunteers – please sign up using the QR code below if you can help at the next event on 17th December 2026.

Scan me!

OPEN EVENTS – EARLY YEARS SEPTEMBER 2027

If you know anyone looking for a school place for September 2027, or for another year group, please let them know about our open events. We hold a series of open events throughout the year where both parents and prospective Early Years (Year R) pupils are welcome to attend. Our open events are an opportunity for families to see the school in action.

13th November 2026 @9.15am

8th January 2027 @ 9.15am

The deadline for parents applying for YR places for September 2027 to Hampshire County Council is 15th January 2027.



Please contact the school office to book a place at one of our popular open events!

UNIFORM POP UP SHOP

Every Friday between 10am and 12pm, the local community centre are running a Uniform Pop-Up Shop. They will have a selection of pre-loved uniform, for a suggested donation of £1 per item. Donations of uniform can also be dropped off during these times.



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The total attendance across the school for Autumn 1 was 96.6%.

Well done to Willow with the highest attendance of 97.55%.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Contacting the school: Please direct enquiries through the school office. The office team will ensure your message reaches the appropriate member of staff. Please allow up to 5 working days for a response to emails. Tel: 01256 466524, Email: adminoffice@rucstall.hants.sch.uk.
- Reporting absence: If your child is absent, please call the school office rather than sending an email.
- Nut-free school: Please do not send any nuts into school. This helps us keep children with severe allergies safe.
- Arrival and collection: Please inform the school office by telephone if someone different is collecting your child.
- Term dates and INSET Days: Please check the term dates and INSET days on the school website before booking holidays or appointments to avoid them falling during term time.
- Medication: Please ensure all medical forms are completed and medications (including inhalers) are up to date. Inform the office of any changes to your child's

medical needs. Your child will not be able to go on a school trip without the correct medication.

- Name everything: Please clearly label all clothing, PE kits, lunch boxes, water bottles and other belongings to help us return lost items.
- PE days: Children should arrive at school wearing their PE kit on PE days.
- Finding information: ParentMail, newsletters, the school website and online calendar are great places to find the latest information and key dates. It is often worth checking these before calling the office.
- School calendar: You can subscribe to the calendar on our website to receive school dates and events directly to your own device.
- Instagram: Follow us on Instagram, @rucstall_primary_school, for reminders and updates.
- Morning drop-off: Please follow the school's one-way system where possible to help reduce congestion and keep everyone safe.

DIARY DATES FOR AUTUMN 2

Date	Event
Tuesday 3rd November	NSPCC Workshops
Tuesday 10th November	Mrs O Workshop – Fir and Hazel Classes
	Remembrance Assembly
Wednesday 11th November	Phonics meeting 9am
Friday 13th November	Open Morning 2 – 9.15am
Friday 20th November	Tennis taster day
Tuesday 24th November	Year 5 Trip to Winchester Science Centre
Friday 27th November	INSET DAY
Wednesday 2nd December	Non-Uniform Day – Bring in an item for the Christmas Hamper
Monday 7th December	Nativity – Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 8th December	Nativity 1 (Year R/1/2)
	Rocksteady Concert
Wednesday 9th December	Nativity 2 (Year R/1/2)
Thursday 10th December	Nativity 3 (Year R/1/2)
Tuesday 15th December	Parent Showcase
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch
	Non-Uniform – Dress Christmassy
Thursday 17th December	KS2 Carols at St Mary's Church

	Christmas Events Day Christmas Fair
Friday 28th December	Last day of term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	