



Rucstall
PRIMARY SCHOOL



December News

The Official Newsletter of Rucstall Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is something truly special and magical about schools at Christmas time. The Nativity was lovely and a huge well done to the children for learning the songs and parts so confidently and beautifully. The children have loved learning and singing Christmas songs and we hope you enjoyed the KS2 Carol Concert and class showcases this week.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Interim Head at Rucstall. [Congratulations](#) to the children who consistently try their best every day. Thank you to parents for your positive encouragement and to the entire staff team who go above and beyond for the school. A special thanks to Mr. Blake for his support and for stepping up to provide continuity this term.

Rucstall Primary School is in very capable hands and I would like to extend my best wishes to the new Headteacher and everyone in the school community. I have invited pupils from Rucstall to visit my school (Preston Candover) in the summer for outdoor activities, a walk through the rolling countryside to our wildflower meadow and a delicious picnic.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Simrit Otway
Interim 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.

RECENT EVENTS

EYFS/KSI Nativity

Our youngest learners delighted us with their Nativity performances. Parents enjoyed a heart-warming display as children took on various roles, from angels to shepherds. Well done Ash, Fir and Hazel classes! It was a fabulous start to the festive season.





Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church

Our KS2 students filled St Mary's Church with their voices, performing traditional Christmas carols that resonated with the festive atmosphere.



RockSteady Concert

We were thrilled to have parents join us for our recent Rocksteady concert, where our talented students showcased their musical skills. Thank you for celebrating their hard work and passion for music with us.



Christmas Lunch

Children enjoyed a fabulous Christmas lunch, a delightful occasion that brought students and staff together. Students enjoyed a delicious meal served by our dedicated staff. It was great to see so many children and staff dressed in festive attire for the occasion.





Pantomime:

This month, we were thrilled to welcome a pantomime troupe into our school to perform a delightful show for our students. The performance was filled with laughter, music, and interactive moments that engaged our young audience. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience live theatre.



Winchester Science Museum

Hazel students enjoyed an exciting trip to the Winchester Science Museum, where hands-on learning experiences brought scientific concepts to life.



Geography walk around Holbein Close

Our recent geography walk provided Fir Class students an opportunity to explore their local area. They learnt about what can be found on Holbein Close and how it compares to where they live.



CAR PARK – KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE!

We've recently received feedback from parents and noted a couple of incidents in the car park at the start and end of the school day. We are very fortunate to have access to the community centre car park, something many schools do not have, and we want to make sure it is used safely and responsibly. Although the car park does not belong to the school, our priority is the safety of all children and the wider community, and we need to work together to prevent any further accidents.

Why is this happening?

As more of our children now come from outside our catchment area, more families are driving to school. This has increased congestion and the need for extra care around the car park.

What have we already done?

- Shared previous communications reminding everyone to be safe in the car park.
- Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) delivered an assembly to pupils about car park safety.

What's new?

- **Park and Stride:** Families can park at Black Dam Ponds and walk the short distance to school. Walking for 10 minutes is a great way to start the day—children arrive refreshed and ready to learn. We appreciate that many parents need to get to work quickly, so

this may not always be possible, but where you can, please consider this option. Other local parking options are also available.

- **Year 5 Walking Home:** From January, Year 5 pupils can walk to and from school independently. Please complete the form on Parentmail to indicate how your child will get home from school. Children will still need to be collected if they attend a club.
- **Working with the Local PCSO:** We are collaborating with our local Police Community Support Officer to promote safe practices and explore other solutions.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** We will continue to monitor the situation closely.
- **Your Feedback:** A parent survey will be shared next term to gather your views and suggestions.

Together, we can make sure our school remains a safe place for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Mr Blake

UPCOMING TRIPS

Gordon Brown Centre Year 5 - 12/1/2
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. Information about booking appointments on ParentMail will follow in the New Year.

Please also see the attached diary dates.

PTFA UPDATE

We are pleased to share that our recent PTFA Christmas fair was an enjoyable event! The fair featured a variety of activities, including Santa's Creative Workshop; with festive crafts, reindeer food creations and meeting Santa to receive a special gift. There was also a delightful cake sale that tempted everyone with sweet treats. Thank you for all of the donated rainbow items for our hampers, which brought a touch of colour and joy to our community. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers and contributors who made this event possible.



We appreciate the involvement of our families and look forward to your continued support in future events. Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved with the PTFA in the coming year.

Follow us on our Facebook page to get regular updates and consider signing up to easyfundraising as a simple way for us to raise more money.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with PTFA events and how to help raise money for the PTFA

Search Rucstall PTFA or use the link below
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61568520741632>

The easiest way to get behind Rucstall PTFA is to sign up to easyfundraising!

It's simple, shop with 8,000+ online retailers and we'll receive a free donation. This month only, with their Free £2 App-eal, if you register to support us via their app, we'll get a bonus £2! Please get the app now and use it for all your Black Friday and Christmas shopping. Thank you!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeId=359466&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=app-eal-nov-fb1

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The total attendance across the school for November was 96.92%. Well done to Rowan class for the highest attendance at 98.62%.

EARLY YEARS SEPTEMBER 2026

Open Events – Early Years September 2026

If you know anyone looking for a school place for September 2026, 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. Our last open event is:

9th January 2026 - 9.15am

The deadline for parents applying for YR places for September 2026 to Hampshire County Council is 15th January 2026.

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

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.

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 |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 5 th January | INSET Day 2 |
| Friday 9 th January | Open Morning - 9.15am |
| Monday 12 th January | Year 5 trip to the Gordon Brown Centre |
| | Phonics information meeting 3.30pm |
| Thursday 15 th January | Census Day |
| Friday 23 rd January | INSET Day 3 |
| Wednesday 4 th February | Open the book assembly |
| Tuesday 10 th February | Parent Consultations |
| Thursday 12 th February | Parent Consultations |
| HALF TERM | |
| Monday 23 rd February | INSET Day 4 |
| Tuesday 24 th February | Year 6 SAT's information meeting 3.30pm |
| Wednesday 4 th March | Wellbeing Wednesday |
| Thursday 5 th March | World Book Day |
| | First aid workshop for children (during the school day) |
| | Parents first aid workshop |
| Friday 6 th March | First aid workshop for children (during the school day) |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Year 4 trip to Weald and Downland Museum |
| Tuesday 17 th March | Rocksteady Concert at 2:30pm |
| | On line safety meeting 5pm |
| Wednesday 18 th March | Open the book assembly |

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| Friday 20 th March | Comic Relief |
| Tuesday 24 th March | Non-uniform day in return for an Easter Egg |
| Wednesday 25 th March | Parent Showcase |
| Thursday 26 th March | Easter Egg Hunt during the school day |
| | PTFA Easter Fayre |
| Friday 27 th March | INSET Day 5 |