



Rucstall
PRIMARY SCHOOL



November News

The Official Newsletter of Rucstall Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have very much enjoyed spending time in classes earlier this week as we marked Remembrance on the 11th November. Children across the school were engaged in learning about the significance of the Poppy, creating beautiful wreath artwork, reading poetry and reflecting on those who have served and made great sacrifices for our freedom and democracy. The whole school also observed a silence 11 o'clock.

Thank you for your donations for the Poppy Appeal. Rucstall has laid a wreath in remembrance at the War Memorial at the Civic Offices.



We would like to thank Mrs Lomax, who will be leaving Rucstall at the end of this term after many years of dedicated service. She has supported numerous children and families and her care and commitment will be greatly missed. Mrs Lomax will be moving on to a new role working with older pupils and we wish her every success in this next chapter.

We are pleased to announce that we have recruited a new Pastoral Leader, who will continue this important work. We will, of course, share further details in due course.

It has been an active and busy return after half term. Please take a moment to see what the children have been learning across curriculum below.

Best wishes

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

Pizza Express

Rowan class visited Pizza Express, where they had the opportunity to make their own pizzas. The pupils learned about the pizza-making process and enjoyed tasting their creations. It was an enjoyable morning for everyone involved!



Milestones.

Fir Class visited Milestones Museum, offering a hands-on experience exploring history in an engaging and interactive setting. Whilst at Milestones, they learnt all about the history of toys.



Diwali.

The children enjoyed a Diwali lunch, and some children who celebrate Diwali wore their own clothing to celebrate in school.



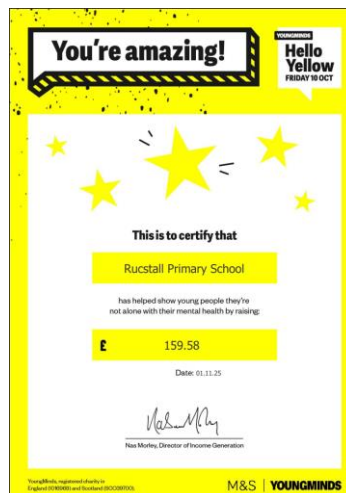
Outdoor Learning.

The children have enjoyed a variety of activities as part of their outdoor learning, including fire pits and den building. It is always a very popular afternoon!



Hello Yellow

Last month, as part of our Hello Yellow Day, the school raised funds for Young Minds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health. Thank you to everyone who contributed, a fantastic total of £159.58 was raised.



Year 4 and 6 trip to the Anvil

Year 4 and 6 walked to the Anvil to see a performance of Orchestra Unwrapped by the Philharmonic Orchestra. This concert is designed to give Key Stage 2 pupils the opportunity to hear a live orchestra. They all had a wonderful time!



Children in Need

Today we have been raising money for Children in Need. The children have come to school in non-uniform or spotty clothes to show their support. We have raised £221 so far – thank you for all your donations! The payment link will be open until Monday, if you have not yet donated.



Parking update – Message from Mr Blake

I would like to take a moment to address an important matter regarding parking arrangements around our school grounds. We have noticed some challenges related to parking recently, including the use of disabled spaces and the safety of our children and adults as they navigate the car park.

We understand that the school drop-off and pick-up can be a particularly busy time, and we greatly appreciate your support during these periods. In light of this,

we kindly ask that everyone remains vigilant and considerate in their parking choices. It is essential that disabled spaces are reserved for those who genuinely require them, enabling access for all members of our community.

We also encourage all parents and caregivers to exercise caution when driving through the car park. Please be aware of children and adults who may be crossing, approaching this area slowly and carefully. We would also encourage parents to switch off their engines while waiting in the car park to avoid exhaust fumes building up around the school entrance.

Creating a safe environment for our school community is a shared responsibility, your cooperation in these matters is invaluable. Thank you for your understanding and assistance in helping to make our school a safe space for everyone. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) will be following up soon!

UPCOMING TRIPS

Year 2: Trip to Winchester Science Museum	18/11/25
Year 1: Geography walk around Holbein Close	19/11/25
KS2: Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church	18/12/25

UPCOMING EVENTS

EYFS/KS1 Nativity: This will be held on Tuesday 9th December at 2pm and Wednesday 10th September at 9.30am. Tickets will be available on Parentmail in the coming weeks.

Christmas Fayre: Look out for more information regarding the PTFA Christmas Fayre happening on Friday 12th December.

Rocksteady Concert: This is happening on Tuesday 16th December at 2.30pm for those children that do Rocksteady.

Parent Showcase: You are welcome to come in after school on Thursday 18th December to look at your child's work in the classroom. Please collect your child at normal time and then wait to be let back into the classroom.

Pantomime: A whole school event that will be happening on Friday 19th December during school time. This year's panto is Dick Whittington.

PTFA UPDATE

Thank you to everyone that braved the weather to attend our Woodland Pumpkin Walk. We hope the children enjoyed themselves. Please keep an eye out for updates about the PTFA Christmas Fayre which will be coming out soon.

In the meantime, we wanted to introduce ourselves to you so please see our members below.

MEET RUCSTALL PTFA COMMITTEE 2025 -2026



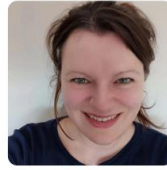
Hayley Smith
Chair & Mum to Olly (Year 1)



Pelin Bailey
Vice Chair & Mum to Millie (Year 2) & Isabella (Year 6)



Jemma
Treasurer & Mum to Maisie (Year 1)



Sam Vaughan
Secretary & Mum to Poppy (Year 4)

CHARITY NUMBER: 1020158

In addition, please follow us on Facebook 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>

Do we need your support?
App-solutely!
31st November to 30th November

The Free £2 App-eal Limited £2s available

Download Register Get £2

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=a-pp-eal-nov-fb1

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The total attendance across the school for October was 95.78%. Well done to Maple class for the highest attendance at 96.85%.

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.

24th November 2025 - 1.30pm *FULL*

4th December 2025 - 9.15am

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
Tuesday 18 th November	Year 2 Trip – Winchester Science Museum – See website for letter
Wednesday 19 th November	Year 1 Geography walk around Holbein Close – See website for letter
	Positive Noticing Day- In school for children only.
Friday 21 st November	Year 5 CARE Programme- In school for children only.
Monday 24 th November	Open Afternoon 2 - 1.30pm- See website for details.
Wednesday 3 rd December	Open The Book Assembly in school for children only.
Thursday 4 th December	Open Morning 3 – 9.15am – See website for details.
Tuesday 9 th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity at 2pm – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Wednesday 10 th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity at 9.30am – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Thursday 11 th December	Non-uniform day in exchange for bottles (tombola) – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Fayre- Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Tuesday 16 th December	Rocksteady Concert at 2.30pm TBC
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch- In school for children only.
	KS2 Christmas Carols at St Mary’s Church – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
	Parent Showcase – Parents invited into the classroom to see the children’s work after school.
Friday 19 th December	Pantomime - 1:30pm – In school for children only – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.

INSET days:

Monday 5th January 2026

Friday 23rd January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 27th March 2026

Attendance



These rules apply to all unauthorised absences.

1 I'm a parent and I want to take my child out of school for a half or full day.

Any absence must be recorded on an absence request form. The form enables us to communicate whether an absence will be authorised or unauthorised. Holiday requests will not be authorised. If your child will miss 5 school days, they will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £80 per parent, per child, if you pay it in 21 days,

For each child a penalty is given...

+ £80 + £80 + £80 + £80
4 children & 1 parent = £320
Doubled to £640 if not paid in 21 days

For a family of 2 parents & 2 children

+£80 +£80
£160 x2 =
Doubled to £640 if not paid in 21 days

What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook?
Foreign mobile dial tone?
Other children talking about your holiday?
Amazing sun tan?
Home visit shows no-one at home?

Please don't be offended if we ask for evidence or mention these questions to you. We're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

2 What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

No, not anymore. If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised then...

2nd TIME 2 parents and...
1 child = £320
2 children = £640
3 children = £960
4 children = £1280
NO DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT

3rd TIME
A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken forward for prosecution. A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child.
1 parent & 2 children = £5,000
2 parents and 2 children = £10,000

3 What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

If your child is absent (or late after registers) for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to issue penalty notices / prosecution.

PENALTY!

So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks (across years or terms). If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

4 What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member or child's birthday	Sickness of parent or sibling
Shopping for uniforms	Sibling's school closed
Inadequate clothing for school	Refusing to attend, but able to
Child being used as a carer	Poor family organisation
Problems with transport	Family holidays
Visiting relatives abroad	No absence request completed
	Non-essential appointments

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.

EVERY DAY COUNTS - ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW