



Dear Parents and Carers,

October has arrived and with it comes crisp mornings and lots of exciting learning in school. There are a number of fantastic trips and opportunities coming up for the children this term.

I have been really impressed with how the older children (play leaders) help and support our new Reception children at playtimes. A big well done, it's great to see the school values in action!

At Rucstall, we follow Hampshire's attendance policy, which highlights the importance of regular school attendance for every child. Children are expected to attend school every day unless they are unwell or have an authorised reason. Good attendance supports not only academic progress but also social development, confidence and routine. Missing school, even just for a few days, can add up quickly and affect children's learning and friendships. A good education is a lifelong gift for our children.

We are looking forward to seeing you during parent teacher meetings this month. It is a great opportunity to discuss how your child is settling back into school life, their progress and how we can continue supporting their learning journey.

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

### Bikeability.

Willow class have completed their Bikeability training. They spent two days practising their skills on the playground and then out onto the local roads. This was a great experience for them all, and they have all gained in confidence on their bikes. Well done Year 6!



### Butser Ancient Farm.

Lime class enjoyed a trip to Butser Ancient Farm as part of our exciting history learning about Stone Age to Iron Age Britain. Check the class pages after the trip to see how it went!



### Assemblies.

Tom Woodbridge, our local vicar from St Mary's Church in Eastrop. Came in to talk to the children about feeding the 5000.



The children also welcomed volunteers from St Mary's Church, they enjoyed listening to the Bible story the team share when they 'Open the Book'.



### Hello Yellow Day.

The children wore something yellow in support of mental health charities. Please don't forget to donate if you can.

<https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/fundraisers/RucstallPrimary/hello-yellow>



Outdoor Learning.

Maple Class.



Rowan Class.



### Willow Class.



### Sustainability Club.



### **UPCOMING TRIPS**

Year 6: Ada Lovelace STEM trip (small group) 14.10.25

Year 5: Pizza Express Trip 14.10.25

Year 1: Milestones Museum on 21.10.25

Year 1 will be visiting Milestones Museum, offering a hands-on experience exploring history in an engaging and interactive setting. Details have been sent to parents, please check Parentmail. Check the class pages after the trip to see how it went!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Parent Perspective – If you are interested in becoming part of this small group to discuss the school’s policy on healthy eating, please get in touch with the school office. A date will then be set later in the term to meet with Mr Blake.

Bikeability Balance Training – This is taking place on the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> October for Ash class. The children will develop their riding skills on a balance bike on out playground. We hope they are looking forward to this!

Annual Nasal Flu Vaccination – 17<sup>th</sup> October. The link was sent home this week for you to accept or decline. Your child will not be able to have the nasal flu spray without consent.

Parents Evening – this is taking place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Diwali lunch – 20<sup>th</sup> October. Lunch options will be chicken tikka masala (red option), lentil and sweet potato curry (green option) or jacket potato. The children will order this as normal in the classroom when they come into school.



#### PTFA UPDATE

The PTFA have elected a new chair and vice chair. See their welcome letter for details.

We have two PTFA events happening in October. These events can only take place if parents can volunteer their time to help, everyone is welcome to lend a hand at any event throughout the year.



Pumpkin Woodland Walk: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

A poster for a 'Pumpkin Woodland Walk' event. The background is a dark, misty woodland scene with several glowing jack-o'-lanterns in the foreground. The text is in yellow and white. In the top right corner, there is a circular logo for 'Rucstall Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association' featuring a red heart with a white bird inside. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code.

**Pumpkin  
Woodland Walk**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 5pm to 6.30pm**

**Bring in a carved pumpkin on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and join us in the woodland later that evening where you can enjoy marshmallow roasting on the fire, buy cakes and enjoy the pumpkin light up walk**

**Pre-pay for marshmallows using the link or QR code £5 per family – Please state your CHILDS NAME AND CLASS – pre-pay link closes Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 17.00, marshmallows can be purchased at the event**

**<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QR1SE72Y>**

**Rucstall  
Parent, Teacher and Friends'  
Association**

Year 5 and 6 Cake Sale: Taking place 23<sup>rd</sup> October.



  
**Year 5 and 6  
Cake Sale**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 we will be hosting the Year 5 and 6 bake sale. This will run as part of the Pumpkin Woodland Walk.

Children are asked to bring their bakes into school on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> October to be sold at this event.

To run this, we will need 2 parent volunteers from Each class to support with the selling of cakes. If you are able to help please speak to a member of the PTFA or email [ptfa@rucstall.hants.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@rucstall.hants.sch.uk)



#### ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The total attendance across the school for September was 96.1%. Well done to Willow class for the highest attendance at 97.8%. Although we understand that children will not be able to come to school if they are unwell, ensuring they are in school for every day they possibly can be really does make a difference.

#### 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.

12th November 2025 - 9.15am  
24th November 2025 - 1.30pm  
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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](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.

### Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Balance Bikeability - EYFS - Letter on ParentMail. Copy will be available on website.
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Y5 Pizza Express Visit - Letter on ParentMail Copy will be available on website.
	Y6 Ada Lovelace STEM Day - Small group trip - Letter on ParentMail. Copy will be available on website.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Balance Bikeability - EYFS
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Whole School Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Y1 Milestones Museum Trip - See letter on Parentmail, copy can be found on website.
	Parent Consultations 1 3:30-6pm - Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parent Consultations 2 4-7:30pm - Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
	Pumpkin Woodland Walk - Letter on ParentMail . Copy will be available on website.
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Open The Book Assembly in school for children only.
	Year 5 CARE Programme - In school for children only.
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS Autumn Walk - Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 CARE Programme - In school for children only.
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service - 11am - In school for children only.

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning 1 – 9.15am – See website for details.
	Wellbeing Wednesday – In school for children only.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
	Year 5 CARE Programme– In school for children only.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 2 Trip – Winchester Science Museum– Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Positive Noticing Day– In school for children only.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 5 CARE Programme– In school for children only.
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Afternoon 2 - 1.30pm– See website for details.
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Open The Book Assembly in school for children only.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Open Morning 3 – 9.15am – See website for details.
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity at 2pm – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity at 9.30am – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day in exchange for bottles (tombola) – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fayre– Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Rocksteady Concert at 2.30pm TBC
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime - 1:30pm – In school for children only – Letter on ParentMail coming soon. Copy will be available on website.

INSET days:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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,

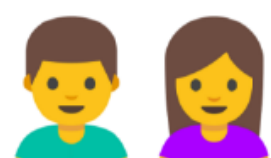

For each child a penalty is given...

+ £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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised then...

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



**3<sup>rd</sup> 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