



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that this Newsletter finds you well - apologies it has arrived slightly later than planned. We have had some challenging weather over the past month and hope that you are ready for the coming weekend. Please be assured that our site manager, Mr Larkin, is highly diligent in checking our school site before staff and children arrive to ensure that the environment is ready and safe at all times - we are very grateful to him.

This month we are trialing a different Newsletter format and would be grateful if you could let us know your thoughts on this style, and on changes we have made this term to support communication between home and school. We fully understand how busy life as a parent is, juggling school, clubs and family commitments. If you can spare two minutes at the end of reading this update to let us know your thoughts, it would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Mrs R Griffiths

Headteacher

## Positive Noticing Day 2024



A few weeks ago the children engaged in our annual Positive Noticing Day. The children had some dedicated time focused on noticing the positive and celebrating this about one another. In our ever busy lives, it is easy to focus on the negative, on what we dislike, what we want to change. However, it is ever more important to find the positive and to share the positives with one another.

I attach below the link for parents, or children, to send a positive comment to any staff member in the school.

[Positive Comments for Staff](#)

## Hot Air Balloon Visit

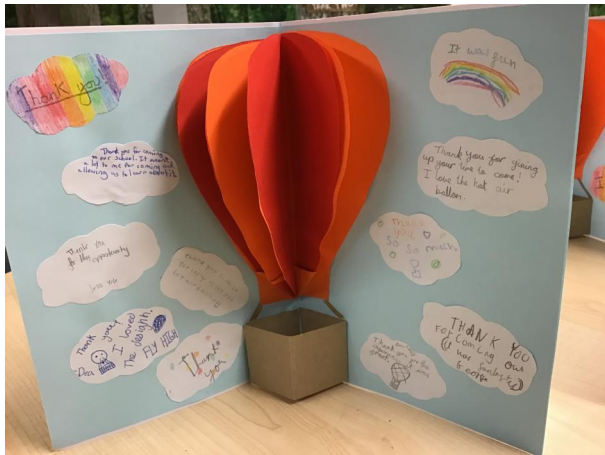


The whole school thoroughly enjoyed our visit from Freddie the Fox! The children were able to watch it inflate and then approach the balloon to ask its aeronauts questions.

Mrs Earl even enjoyed taking flight for a few minutes!

Children in Year 4 sent some fantastic thank you cards to the team who provided this experience. We are very grateful to them for giving up their time.





## Remembrance

As a school we gathered together for a shared reflection on Armistice Day. The children paused to reflect and remember those that have fought for the freedoms we enjoy.

The children learned about the unknown warrior grave and respected a two minute silence.



Thank you to Isabella in Year 5 for attending the Remembrance Service in Basingstoke on behalf of the school.



Please check your child's class page on our website for more regular updates and photos of the learning they have been engaging in, trips and experiences!

## Class Pages: 2024-2025

[Home](#) >> [Children](#) >> [Class Pages: 2024-2025](#)



**Ash Class**



**Fir Class**



**Hazel Class**



**Lime Class**



**Maple Class**



**Rowan Class**



**Willow Class**

### Changes to Wraparound Care



You may be aware that the previous Government issued a directive requiring schools to ensure wraparound care provision is available for any parent who requests it for their child between 8am and 6pm. As you can imagine, this is a significant requirement, and we have carefully reviewed how we can meet this for our families. After considering various factors, we identified two key challenges:

- Demand for after-school provision exceeds our current capacity.
- Recruiting breakfast club staff to meet current demand has been unsuccessful.

To address these challenges, we have engaged with various childcare providers, including those we currently work with (such as Quackers) and others operating locally.

To meet both parental demand and the new Department for Education requirements, we are pleased to inform you that from January 2025, **wraparound care will be fully provided by SCL Active**. This will be based within the school hall and The Forest area (all within the school premises).

Please find attached a handout with detailed information for parents who require this provision, including booking details.

### **What Does This Mean for You?**

**Booking:** All bookings for breakfast and after-school wraparound care must now be made directly through SCL. Please also notify the school regarding collection arrangements at the end of the day as we transition.

**Breakfast Club:** 7:45–8:45am.

**After-School Club:** 3:15–6:00pm.

**On-Site Care:** Children will remain on-site at all times, moving within the building only between educational and care spaces.

**Pricing:** Prices have changed. We have chosen an option that meets demand and is the best price for parents. The school will initially subsidise this through a grant to support the transition.

**Drop-Off and Collection:** These will take place at the hall doors. Any changes will be communicated directly to those affected.

**Booking Flexibility:** Bookings can be made up until 1pm on the same day.

**Childcare Vouchers:** These can continue to be used through SCL.

**Existing Funds:** Any remaining funds in school breakfast club ParentMail pots will be transferred to children's main accounts in January.

**Improved Transition:** We anticipate enhanced transition arrangements for children, alongside improved provision and safeguarding measures.

We understand this change is significant for parents, children, and the school. However, we hope you can see why it is necessary. Please note that while local childcare competition will remain, SCL Active is now the school's sole chosen provider. From January, we will no longer facilitate transitions to other wraparound care providers, including Quackers. Additionally, if there is insufficient uptake, it would indicate a lack of demand, and this provision could cease. It is therefore essential that we all work together to transition smoothly to this new arrangement to ensure we can continue to have this service for Rucstall parents.

If you have further questions not covered in this letter or the attached information, please submit them here.

[Question Submission](#)

## School Meals



Parents may also have seen that Hampshire Education Catering is looking to cease trading in March 2026.

The school will subsequently be exploring new contract caterers, following a focus on the transition to new wraparound care provision.

We will keep you update across next year. Please rest assured that there is no immediate impact from this announcement.

## Governor Updates



A message below from our Chair of Governors, Mrs Laura Lucas:

There have been some small changes to our Governing Board recently so we wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with a quick update.

In addition to Mrs Griffiths, Mr Blake and Staff Governor, Mrs Hemmings, our Governing body currently has 5 co-opted Governors – Laura Lucas (Chair), Rob Perrett (Vice-Chair), Sam Baker, Dawn Spreadbury and Andy Dawes. We have also recently added two new parent governors to our Governing Body:

**David Little** – David has 20 years' experience in the IT industry, 12 of them for the world's largest IT reseller CDW. For the last 6 years he has been taking positions in different organisations assisting them with stabilising and developing their in-house finance, CRM and ERP systems, primarily Microsoft Dynamics NAV. The governor role appealed to David as both his young girls attend Rucstall and during his eldest's early years he worked away too much. His hope is that the role allows him to be more involved and to hopefully provide some assistance in his areas of knowledge. At a personal level David enjoys running, ethical hacking and home automation.

**Tom Kirk** – Tom has over 10 years' experience as a Software Engineer, and has spent the last 7 years working for Hawk-Eye, a sports technology company. For the last 3 years he has managed a team of engineers. He gets involved with project managing, recruitment, training and problem solving. Tom has one son who has started at Rucstall this year in Early Years. Tom's mum used to be a parent governor and found it very rewarding so he has always been quite keen to get involved and help the school out however he can.

Welcome to David and Tom – we know you'll add a lot of value to the Governing body.

Sadly our Local Authority (LA) Governor - Catherine Duke (Vice-chair) has had to step down from the Governing Body – we thank her for all her support. This does mean we currently have a vacancy for a LA Governor.

Governors work alongside the School Leadership Team (Mrs Griffiths, Mr Blake and Mrs Baugh) to ensure that the school meets its strategic aims and fulfils its vision. Governors have three main objectives:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the education performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Board is not responsible for the day to day running of the school; this is the responsibility of the Headteacher and her leadership team.

As we turn our attention to Christmas we really hope to meet some of you at the upcoming festivities and may we take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Christmas Performances



We would like to clarify that the ticket cost is a request of support. The school has historically charged for tickets and we have kept this, as it enables us to fund additional experiences for the children across the year. If you cannot however donate, please do not let this impact you attending the performances and seeing your child/children!

The system has been tweaked, as it appears to have been done differently to last year. It is now set so that if you are unable to donate £2.50 or more you can still log your tickets by adding any donation amount from 1 penny upwards, apologies for this.

## Wellbeing Watch

### **Wellbeing Watch**

Extra pressures over the festive period can affect your mental wellbeing. Added financial costs, unrealistic adverts, change in routines and time pressures can make you feel anxious and overwhelmed. Take time to plan ahead, make lists and budget. Be open with others and do not be afraid to ask for support if you are struggling. Above all be kind to yourself and prioritise what you need to improve your wellbeing.

### **Top Tip for Children**

Borrow a variety of Christmas books from the library to read throughout the festive season. Make it a special occasion of reading each book, by the Christmas tree, snug in a blanket or in your favourite pyjamas!

## Contact Us

We intend to share our Spring diary dates very soon!

Please remember that all information can be found on the Parentmail App and our [Rucstall Website](#)

## Newsletter Feedback

