



# October News

The Official Newsletter of Rucstall Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half-term of this year, we have begun the year by looking back at the success for children in 2024 with our July outcomes – we think you’ll agree that the children and staff should be proud of what has been achieved. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Outstanding Ofsted celebrations – we hope that you enjoyed yourselves.

Whilst we are pleased to share below the success of children across the school, it is also important to look forward and consider how we continue to ensure children’s academic and emotional progress in the coming years, with increasing challenges and tighter budgets. With this in mind, you will find information below about the school’s strategic plan and school development plan.

A special thanks this month to the PTFA and those who have come forward to support events. Without parental support we cannot safely run events, trips and experiences. This year the PTFA are fundraising for new laptops for the children to use during computing and digital literacy lessons – thank you for your ongoing support of the PTFA and school. There are images both below and on the school website of events over the past half-term.

Finally, I would like to highlight again the different communication methods the school uses to ensure that parents are aware of what is taking place at school for the children, as well as wider developments. This year we are trying a new system by collating communications, as much as possible, and sending them home on a Friday. This adjustment has come from parental feedback and we hope that it aids you in managing the demands of parenthood. Below I have signposted the key ways in which parents can support themselves and reference information shared by the school, after it has been sent home via Parentmail:

- Website:
  - Class Pages – these show you what your child has been learning, they also include the slides from the information meeting at the start of the year and the termly curriculum newsletter. This is managed by the class teacher.
  - Calendar – this can be imported to link with a personal electronic calendar. This shows the events for the term as a minimum.
  - Newsletters – this is the monthly newsletter from myself
  - Letters – copies of letters sent in general to parents can be found here.
  - Home Learning – includes the ‘Home Learning in a Nutshell’ document for each class, as well as the overview, parent guides for each app and now a video on how to check your child’s engagement with home learning as a parent.
- Instagram and Facebook – these share reminders of upcoming events each week, as well as photos from some of our events. The school posts the same material to both accounts.
- Parentmail – this app holds all letters you have been sent and communications. It also shows payments, enables parents evening booking and now includes forms when we ask them to be completed.

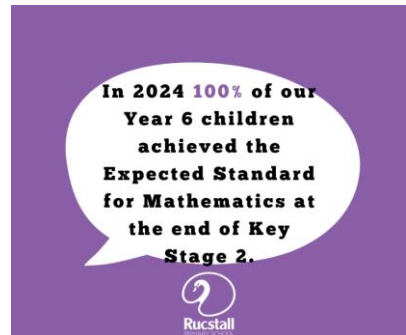
We hope that you have a pleasant half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

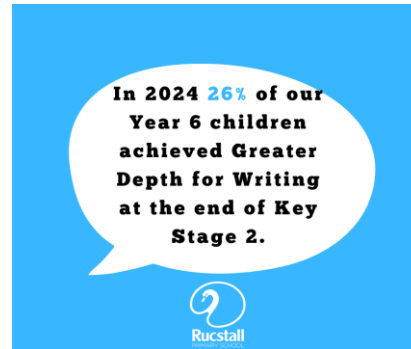
Kind regards,

Mrs R Griffiths  
Headteacher

### 2024 Pupil Outcomes

We are extremely proud and pleased to share with you all the statutory outcomes from July 2024. I am sure you agree that these are fantastic and further consolidate Ofsted's view of the superb work the teaching team continue to do. It is incredibly important that the children are well equipped before leaving us for their next stage of education, both academically and emotionally.





## School Development Plan and Strategic Plan

Further to our recent coffee morning, our Strategic Plan and slides on our School Development Plan can be found [here](#) and outlines the long-term planning for the school until 2030. Our development plan focuses on the below objectives across the following two years.

### Objective 1

To improve the teaching of sentence structure and writing.

Subsequently improving outcomes for all groups and year groups. Improving over time the number of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium achieving GDS.

### Objective 2

To empower and enable subject leaders to lead, enabling autonomous action planning and impact measurement.

### Objective 3

To sustain the school's excellence in teaching and learning.

Subsequently sustaining outcomes as the pupil population and demographics change.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate Rucstall turning 50 years old.





### Pumpkin Woodland Walk

Last week we hosted our first Pumpkin Woodland Walk with marshmallow toasting. Thank you to the PTFA, its volunteers and Mr and Mrs Sayer for their support.

We hope that you enjoyed the experience. Please let us know if you did, as we do listen to feedback when planning annual events together with the PTFA.



## Harvest Festival

Children across Key Stage One and Two enjoyed our Harvest Celebration last week, singing and reflecting together. The reflection was led by Revered Tom Woodbridge from St Mary's Church in Eastrop. We were also joined by Linda from the Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone for their contributions.



## Cycle Safety

As part of our school safety teaching, children are taught about the importance of wearing a helmet when cycling or scooting. We would ask that parents echo this teaching by ensuring that children have helmets when riding. This is even more important when they are playing outside of school and not with a parent.

## Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies can be found [here](#) on the school website for parents' reference.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Griffiths, Mr Blake, Mrs Baugh and Mrs Lomax.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

### New School Dinner Menu

After half-term there is a new dinner menu in place.

There is a picture version of the menu attached (we start with Week One) and the link below takes you to different menu viewing options.

Alongside this menu, the children will also have the choice of the below menu (blue choice):

Monday	Jacket potato with cheese and beans
Tuesday	Tomato pasta
Wednesday	Pesto pasta
Thursday	Macaroni cheese
Friday	JP with cheese

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/education-catering/parent-information/primary>

### Wellbeing Wednesday

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November the children will be spending the afternoon thinking specifically about how the care for their mental health. The afternoon's key question is: How can nature support our wellbeing?

### Remembrance Service

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November the children in Years One to Six will gather together with staff to reflect on the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. We will stop to take part in the 2 minutes silence at 11am.

Mrs Lee and family will be laying a wreath on behalf of the school at the Basingstoke Remembrance Sunday Service.

## Positive Noticing Day

*On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, we will be holding our third 'Positive Noticing Day'.*

*The idea is simple; every child receives a positive message about themselves from one of their peers. They bring this home to be shared with you.*

*If you would like to leave a positive message for a staff member, you can do so [here](#).*



## Children In Need

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November the children are invited to wear non-uniform for the day (spots are optional but the usual theme!) in exchange of a minimum £1 donation to the charity Children In Need. This will be added to Parentmail nearer the time.

## Immunisations Feedback

The School Nursing Team would appreciate parental feedback, if you would like to engage: <https://forms.office.com/pages/parentfeedback>

## Rucstall Community Centre

The community centre has recently come under new management and is now part of a wider group of centres. We have met with the new management, who are keen to develop the centre to be used more by the community and they have asked if parents and local residents would engage with an initial survey [here](#).

### Wellbeing watch

As we embrace autumn take time to notice the season changing around us.

Research shows that being able to connect with the natural world brings many benefits to our mental health and physical wellbeing. These include, reduced feelings of stress, improved mood and feeling more relaxed.

Simple activities such as, walking or exercising outdoors can also help us to get to know new people and connect us to our local community. By tuning in and connecting with 'everyday' nature closer to home, we can feel the positive impact on our wellbeing.

### Top Tip for Children

Natural materials found in woodland can be used to make collages, sculptures and other forms of art. Take inspiration from the shapes, textures and colours around you. Use leaves, petals, sticks and stones.

What can you create?

## Open Events – Early Years September 2025

If you know anyone looking for a school place for September 2025, 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.

16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 1.30pm  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 9.15am  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 9.15am

The deadline for parents applying for YR places for September 2025 to Hampshire County Council is 15th January 2025.

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

Telephone: (01256) 466524  
Website: [www.rucstall.hants.sch.uk](http://www.rucstall.hants.sch.uk)  
E-mail: [adminoffice@rucstall.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@rucstall.hants.sch.uk)  
Address: Holbein Close, Black Dam, Basingstoke, RG21 3EX



# Diary Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Wellbeing Wednesday
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	EARA Meeting - invited pupils only
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service - 11am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Positive Noticing Day
	Open the Book Assembly
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Spotty Non-Uniform
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Trip to The Vyne - Invited pupils only 1.00-3.00pm
	Christmas decorations go up
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Open Morning 3 - 9.15-10.30am
	Open the Book Assembly
	Trip to The Vyne - Invited pupils only 1.00-3.00pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day (for PTFA Christmas Fayre) <b>In exchange for a bottle please</b>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day (for PTFA Christmas Fayre) <b>In exchange for coloured raffle items</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fayre
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity at 2pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity at 9.30am
	Rocksteady Concert at 2.30pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch <b>Dress Christmassy Non-Uniform</b>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church - am
	Parent Showcase
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime - Jack and The Beanstalk
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	INSET Day - School Closed
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	INSET Day - School Closed

One INSET date remains unconfirmed - parents will be notified a half-term in advance.