



Friday 21st April 2023



Welcome back!

I hope you have had a restful break. The children have certainly come back with an extremely positive frame of mind and seem to be keen and eager to get back to school life. I certainly enjoy the spring term, a chance to have a bit of a spring clean, re-evaluate things and reflect on what has gone well and how things could be further improved for both the children and the RAPS team.

Hence the revamped newsletter! This will now come out termly, drawing your attention to up and coming events, as well as summarising some of the interesting things that have gone on across the term. I am aware that newsletters can sometimes become a bit of a laborious read and, being dyslexic, each one takes me ages to write! This newsletter will also accompany the 'Next week at RAPS' that the office now sends out weekly, enabling you to keep abreast of the growing number of events that are going on at RAPS weekly.

Another change is obviously within our RAPS team itself. As I said in my last newsletter, RAPS has always prided itself on the development of both pupils and its staff, and over time.....

Upcoming Dates:

27th April-Proposed NEU Strike Day

1st May-Bank Holiday

2nd May-Proposed NEU Strike Day

5th May-Coronation Day-All Children to wear Red/White and Blue

8th May-Bank Holiday

9th May-KS2 SATs start

22nd May-Viking Games Upper KS2

23rd May-Viking Games Lower KS2

24th May-Viking Games KS1

25th May-Viking Games Reception

26th May-Talent Show



.....we have seen staff leave and take on new promotions, or follow different avenues in their working lives. Following the departure of Mrs Beech, I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Mr Holliday, our new Deputy Head teacher, as well as Mrs Chidwick-Day, our new Assistant Head, who will be joining myself and Miss Dannell as a part of our Senior Leadership Team. Miss Tranham is also coming back as the full-time class teacher in Team Spurrier (soon to become Team Tranham!). Teaching alongside Miss Tranham will be Mrs Smart, who will continue to work mornings.

As you have probably heard on the news, the teachers' funding dispute continues with the government and there is more planned strike action on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. I will let parents know which classes will be open as soon as I can - generally, the unions confirm strike action seven days before the strike. I know as a parent it can become frustrating and empathise with your perspective, but I do not know any firm details before this time.

Our new Leadership Team



Hello, I 'm Mr. Holliday and I am delighted to join the RAPS Team as the new Deputy Head Teacher. I have recently moved to the area from South East London after working at my previous school in Greenwich for the past 10 years. I have been lucky enough to visit RAPS a number for the times over the past few months and have always been greatly impressed by the levels of effort and courteousness demonstrated by the children. I have a passion for all things sports and music so to join a school that shares these values as well as wealth of wider curriculum areas covered is a real privilege. Parents, you will see me most mornings and afternoons on the gates so please pop by to say 'hello'. I look forward to getting to know the RAPS community in greater depth over the term.

Hi, my name is Mrs Chidwick-Day and I am the new Assistant Head responsible for the EYFS. I have been working in KS1 for almost my entire teaching career but have a real passion for the Early Years and have been the Early Years Leader at Ellington Infant School. In my spare time I like spending time with my four children aged 7, 9, 14 and 16 and going out on days out to places like Dover Castle and Kearsney Abbey. We also love going to our beach hut where we body board, paddle board and if I get a chance, read my book! I'm a passionate Man Utd supporter but enjoy most sports. I'm really looking forward to getting to know all of the children and their families.



I'm sure I have met most of you by now but if I haven't, I'm Miss Dannell. This is my 5th year working at RAPS and my first as assistant headteacher. I am in my 9th year of teaching having worked at a primary school near Faversham prior to RAPS. I have always lived in Thanet although I love travelling (my most recent adventure was to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon at Easter). I also have a passion for singing, playing racket sports and my two cats!



RAPS in the News (click on image to read story)

Schools Team Up to Clean Up:



RAPS Rappers Keep On Talking:



Breathing Life into Greek History at RAPS:



Young Creatives Work With Turner Contemporary:



Skill and Passion at VAT Public Speaking Competition:



London Marathon Entry

Michael Bannon (Reception Parent) will be running the London marathon on Sunday and raising money for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal run by the British Red Cross Society. Any donations would be welcome no matter how small: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michael-bannon5>