



## A Warm Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to all of our RAPS families - I hope that you all had a wonderful summer break (though I am sure that you were all really pleased when the 4th September finally arrived)! These few weeks back at RAPS has been a huge success, with all of the children ready to quickly get back to their learning and play. They have settled back to the school routine brilliantly.

As always, the first newsletter of the year contains some important messages and reminders about the year ahead. If you have any queries or questions, please do get in touch.

**Uniform:** Please could I remind parents and carers that hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back, and hair accessories should be small and in school colours. Jewellery is not permitted apart from a wristwatch and stud earrings (these must be removed or covered for PE sessions). Hoodies should not be worn as a school jumper.

**Holidays during Term Time:** As a family of 5, I certainly recognise the financial advantages of booking a family holiday during term time. However, I equally understand how much absence affects children's learning and progress, both socially and academically. Holidays during term time will therefore only be authorised in the most exceptional of circumstances. Holidays which are taken for five or more days in term time will result in a penalty notice being applied for. Children having excellent attendance at school is a vital ingredient in their success and so the school will do everything it can to promote the highest standards of attendance. Of course, if a child is unwell, parents are the best judge of whether they should be in school or not, but the statistics below do give context to attendance percentages and just how much school is missed:

98% attendance = less than 4 days absence

95% = less than 10 days absence

90% = 4 weeks absence

85% = 5 ½ weeks absence

80% = 7 ½ weeks absence

Over 5 school years:

85-90% attendance = roughly half a school year missed

80% attendance = one whole school year missed



**Breakfast and After School Club:** Please could I remind parents and carers that places must be booked in advance for both our breakfast and after school club. For more information, please follow the link below.

[Ramsgate Arts Primary School - Breakfast and After School Club](#)

**The School Site:** Just another gentle reminder that dogs are not permitted at all on the school site and we ask that scooters and bikes are not ridden on the premises for the safety of everyone. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Finally, congratulations to Miss Okai who got married in the summer and is now Mrs Kateley and also Miss Tranham, who is now Mrs Cole!

I hope that you all have a wonderful term and I look forwards to catching up with you all at varying points in time over the coming year.

Best wishes,  
Mr Nick Budge, Head of School



## Keeping Up to Date and Communication

This newsletter will always contain information on what is coming up or happening at school and will continue to be sent Termly.

The office sends out messages and reminders through MCAS and will keep our social media pages updated.

Teachers also send out class blogs during the week which are a great resource for parents and carers as they outline what the children have learnt during a week, what's coming up, weekly home-learning and anything else that parents need to know. Blogs are found on the tab on the [website homepage](#).

The website in general is a useful resource. Useful website links:

[VIRTUAL OFFICE](#)– information on: Breakfast and After School Clubs, school meals, term dates etc.

[NEWS & EVENTS](#): Home to newsletters, the calendar and other messages

[CONTACT US](#): useful email addresses, staff praise forms.

Please if you have any concerns regarding the class please arrange to see the class teacher. Any other issues please speak to Miss Dannell, our Assistant Headteacher; Mrs Chidwick-Day, our Assistant Head of the Early Years; Mr Holliday, our Deputy Headteacher or myself, Mr Budge, Head of School. You will find us around most days on the gates at the beginning and end of days. Otherwise, phone the office and make an appointment or find our details on the 'contact us' page of the website.

## Dates for your Diary

Every Tuesday at 2.40-Parent Reading for Year 1

Every Thursday at 2.40- Parent Reading for Year 2

Mon 18th SEP– Kent Fire and Rescue

Mon 25th Sep – Music Roadshow for KS2

Friday 22nd Sep – Choir starts.

Friday 29th Sep – KS2 Come Read with me at 2.35

Friday 6th Oct 2.30-Reception RWI mtg

Week beginning 16th Oct – Diversity week-lantern workshops.

Friday 20th October – Light Parade and Fireworks at RAPS.



## IMPORTANT NEWS – Closure of the Drop-Off Carpark

As of next week, the drop-off carpark at the back of the school will be closed until at least after half term. This is because it will be used as a site area for a building team, who are replacing the boundary fence around the whole of the school. When the school was first built, the boundary fence was not replaced as a part of a money-saving exercise. The boundary fence backing on to our neighbours at the back of the school is now in such disrepair that it must be replaced by the Department of Education as a matter of urgency.

Following this in half term, two additional classrooms will be placed on the playground, this is to avoid losing the Art room and Music room as the school grows. The Trust and school are keen to ensure that the Arts continue to be a major part of the RAPS curriculum, so have invested in these additional classrooms, which will become a Year 6 wing to help with their transition to secondary school. We ask you all to be respectful to our neighbours when parking over the coming months and if possible, walk rather than drive.

See above an artist impression of the classrooms which will be very in keeping with the RAPS style. We thank you for your understanding and patience in advance.



# CORE VALUES

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, we have carefully selected seven values to develop in our pupils. These core values are explored both discretely and organically throughout the year.

It is our intention that, with guidance and practice, our pupils will develop a strong understanding of these values, learning to apply them in their lives both within and beyond school.

**The Ramsgate Arts Primary School's values are:**

**Aspiration**  
**Enquiry**  
**Engagement**  
**Challenge**  
**Collaboration**  
**Diversity**  
**Autonomy**

## **Why have we chosen these values?**

We believe that each value brings the opportunity for pupils to flourish. Although there are hundreds of other values and character traits to choose from, for us, within our setting these values stand out as core values.

## **Discrete teaching of the core values through the value of the term.**

Through whole school assemblies, our pupils are taught about the meaning and benefits of the term's core value. They are taught how the value can be used to develop them as individuals within our school community. They learn the features of the value and celebrate the value in themselves and others.

Each term, during Personal Development Week (read more about this in the Personal Development section of the website), pupils engage in lessons relating to the value of the term. These lessons are both cohesive and progressive across the school, meaning that the pupils' understanding of the value grows with them as they move through the school.

## **The value for this term is Aspiration.**

To have aspiration is to have hope. We want to instil in our pupils to aspire to achieve in life, whether that might be in their lessons or their hobbies, their personal achievements or as a team. We know that helping pupils realise their aspirations for the future will allow them to plan for achieving these aspirations. If they can consider and identify their hopes and dreams, they can begin to achieve them.

Definition of aspiration shared with the pupils: the ambition of achieving something.

Our key vocabulary used when discussing aspiration is: aspire, aspiration, aspirational, ambition, hope, dream, achieve, achievement, strive, potential, possibility, purpose, inspire, inspiration, inspirational.





## SAFEGUARDING

At RAPS, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children.

In line with government guidance and legislation, as laid out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023' and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', staff members are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the best interest of the child.

We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to this safeguarding commitment, including our safeguarding policy which is available on our school website.

### **RAPS Safeguarding Team:**

At RAPS, we have a safeguarding team who oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure that skills and knowledge are up to date, and that are able then to effectively train school staff and support children and families.

Designated Safeguarding Leads, who are there for any concerns to be reported to. They are:

**Mr Budge – Head of School**

**Mrs Elliott – DSL and Well-Being lead**

**Mr Holliday – Deputy Head Teacher**

**Mrs Hughes –SENCO**

**There is also a designated safeguarding governor – Mrs Brand**

### **Sharing Concerns**

Sometimes we may need to ask questions, share information and work in partnership with other agencies, where there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns are discussed with parents/carers first, unless we have reason to believe that this would put the child at more risk of harm. All families need support from time to time, please feel free to speak to a DSL if you need any support - no matter how small or big you feel it is.

### **What to do if you have concerns**

If Parents and Carers have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) during term time between 8:00 and 4:00, by calling the main school office (01843 582847). Outside of these times, if you are concerned a child is at risk, please contact Integrated Children's Services on 03000 411111 (office hours) or 03000 419191 (out of office hours). If a child is in danger, you should call 999.

### **HELLO FROM MRS LAW:**

**I'm joining the team at RAPS as Viking Academy Trust's Director of Education. I'm not new to Viking though, having been Head of School at Chilton for eight years and having worked with Mr Budge for a lot longer than either of us would care to admit now!**

**My new role sees me dividing my time and supporting the Heads in all three of our Viking schools. You'll see my face out on the gate in the mornings that I'm at RAPS and it's lovely to be back working more closely with the RAPS team again.**



## TIMES OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The RAPS school day starts earlier than all other local schools (great for traffic!), with our 'doors open' at 8.15am and registration at 8:30am.

For Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils (Year 1 and Year 2), the school day ends at 3.00pm.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils' day (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) finishes at 4.15pm Monday to Thursday, when our Arts Curriculum is taking place.

All pupils finish school at 3.00pm on Fridays.

Increasingly we have had KS2 parents ask if their child can leave school early to go to other clubs and activities. This is now becoming unmanageable for the office because of the sheer number of children they are having to collect and is becoming disruptive to learning. Sadly, RAPS will no longer be able to accommodate these requests.



### NAMING CLOTHING

Please can parents ensure that children's jumpers, coats etc are labelled with your child's name in them. This makes it so much easier to return lost property to the rightful owner.

### WATER BOTTLES

Please make sure children only have water in their water bottles, not squash or fizzy drinks. Many thanks

### SNACKS AT BREAKTIMES

Please can snacks brought to school be healthy – fruit, vegetables, cereal bars, popcorn, we do not consider crisps, cakes, pastries, chocolate confectionary or sweets to be an appropriate healthy snack and therefore cannot be eaten during break. Please remember we have children with severe nut and egg allergies - so no eggs or nuts!



### CONTACT DETAILS

If you have changed your contact details over the summer holiday, email, telephone or home address please let the school office know so that if and when we need to get hold of you, we can do successfully.



[ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk](http://ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk)

