



Ramsgate

Arts Primary School

Dear RAPS families,

I cannot believe we are already in the third week of Term 2 - the weeks seem to fly by and before we know it, we will be in the Christmas Season. Before I set out the diary of events for Christmas, it would be good to share and celebrate our long-awaited Ofsted report.

RAPS continues to be a good school, and this is down to the hard work, positive attitudes, support and enthusiasm of all children and families, staff and governors involved at RAPS. I am very lucky to be a part of a strong community team, and everyone has played an important part in this very encouraging inspection report.

This was our second inspection since we opened seven years ago and, in my view, this excellent report highlights numerous impressive areas around the whole learning experience enjoyed by children at RAPS. Over the two days, the inspector found:

‘pupils in this popular and growing school are friendly, curious, happy and polite. They are rightly proud of their school and appreciate the many opportunities they are given to develop their creativity and an understanding of where they live.’

‘Behaviour in lessons is good meaning there is no lost learning time, and children feel safe and have trusted adults who would help them if they are worried’. Safeguarding is described as ‘effective’.

The report adds that children are ‘confident, respectful, tolerant, kind and able to express their emotions in an appropriate way’.

The learning environment is ‘well organised, welcoming and respected by pupils’, while the curriculum is ‘ambitious, well planned and broad with an extended arts curriculum offer. This is something the school rightly takes great pride in.’

RAPS is ‘ambitious for all pupils – and is inclusive and all pupils have the same opportunities’ and the children ‘enjoy learning, and particularly value the arts curriculum’.

The inspector judged that ‘staff know pupils and the community well. They care deeply for them. The personal development curriculum is a real strength of the school’. The report adds that the school has high aspirations for pupils and wants them to be well prepared for their next steps. Staff are praised: ‘Staff are dedicated, proud to work at the school and see themselves as a team. Leaders manage workload and well-being with care’. The Ofsted team also commented on our ‘well-designed and ambitious curriculum’ but added ‘there is a variability in pupils’ progress in reading, writing and mathematics and pupils’ outcomes are not yet what the school wants them to be.’ Our Ofsted developmental point is that ‘the school needs to continue its work to ensure that the curriculum is fully embedded from early years onwards so that pupils achieve highly’. A contributing factor to this variability of progress is because of certain year groups’ experiences during COVID and this is something that we are aware of as a Team and have already incorporated into our ongoing action plans and have been working hard to rectify.

The inspector also particularly noted that parents were very complementary of RAPS as a whole and that one specific enthusiastic comment was ‘representative of many.’ It cites a parent who firmly believes the arts curriculum offer is ‘unique in Thanet and is interlaced into learning. My daughter is thriving educationally and personally at RAPS’. Overall, the report shows a strong school that is thriving in so many important areas. I am very pleased that Ofsted recognised RAPS as a unique school offering a different type of education to the children in Thanet which drives us to further enhance and improve the quality of education. [To read the report in full please click here.](https://www.ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk/parent/parent-report)

Happy reading.

Nick Budge, Head of School

[ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk](https://www.ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk)



Festive celebrations at RAPS!

Christmas in schools is always hectic and keeping track of everything that is going on as a parent is almost nigh on impossible. So, to make things as easy as possible please see our festive dates list attached to this newsletter. Please save this to your phone, pin to your fridge, and don't forget to check your 'Next Week at RAPS' and the RAPS calendar on the website!

Parent's creative ideas and support

I can never thank the few individuals in our Parent Council enough for their efforts in supporting the community and raising money for the school. The Parent Council generally organises six events during the school year, two for the whole community, two for the children and two for parents. So far this year the Parent Council were involved in the very successful Newington Lights Festival (if you missed it click [here](#)) and they will be organising the Christmas Grotto for the children. Help will be required!

Organising these events, I know takes its toll, and there is always a need for volunteers to lighten the workload of this committed group of parents. I understand that not everyone wants to commit to the Parent Council or struggles to have time in our busy and hectic lives. It has been suggested we slightly change the format of Parents Council, rather than the same group of individuals organising the same events every year, that there become subgroups under the banner of Parent Council that form a group and plan and run one of the events of their own design, rather than the ongoing commitment to every Parent Council event.

Each event, whether it be for the community, for the children or the parents, helps cement our community together and so is incredibly important. An obvious additional benefit is raising much-needed cash for our school. The current project we are working towards is our nurture area which will greatly benefit our pupils' wellbeing. If you, or a group of parents would be interested in planning and running any event, please e-mail parent council: rams.ptfa@gmail.com or see me at the gate.

I look forward to your support but also your creative and original ideas.



Dates for the diary-

Every Tuesday - Yr 1 Parent reading at 2.40 (need to double check)

Wednesday - Reception Parent Reading at 2.40

Thursday - Yr 2 Parent Reading at 2.40

Every Tuesday / Thursday New Parent Tours are being conducted. Please contact the office to book your place.

17th Nov – Big Draw – [See MCAS letter](#)

28th Nov – LIVE @ RAPS - Royal Harbour Students.

See Christmas Dates List attached to this newsletter.

5th Dec – Rock Steady Concert 1

7th Dec – Rock Steady Concert 2

15th Dec – Last Day of School 2.00 Finish
(-no after school club)

2nd Jan - INSET Day

3rd Jan - Children back to school

