



Dear Parents and Carers,

I recently read the commission for the state of play in England. Baroness Anne Longfield said, "Generations of children are growing up with less time to play, less time outdoors, and less time with friends. Instead, they are spending more time indoors, on screens. Play is being squeezed out of their lives, with dire consequences for their mental and physical health and development."

This sentiment I and the RAPS team whole heartedly agree with. Research shows that play is vital for overall well-being across all ages, leading to:

- Improved cognitive development
- Improved motivation
- Improved speech, language and communication skills
- Improved physical development and physical fitness
- Supporting brain development and health
- Improving wellbeing and fostering emotional resilience
- Supporting academic progress
- Developing problem-solving skills, collaborative skills and creativity.

At RAPS, we have always encouraged play through our Child Initiated time in our Early years and continuing throughout KS1. We are particularly looking at how to enhance play and being outdoors in KS2 as well. I recently visited a school to observe their play; it was refreshing to see children outside in all-weather playing. The school's mantra was very much 'there is no such thing a bad weather only inappropriate clothing'. Over the coming months and with the inclement weather, please can you ensure that your child is dressed appropriately as we will endeavour to get children outside as much as possible.

Term 2 is always busy, especially in the run up to Christmas, the corridors are filled with children singing, rehearsing for their Christmas performances. Interestingly, when speaking to other headteacher colleagues, these performances in other schools have taken a back seat since COVID, something that certainly isn't the case at RAPS. Although a logistical nightmare, with the plethora of Christmas events, every child still has the opportunity to perform. If you have missed the Christmas diary sent out on MCAS or dotted around the school, please see the events below.

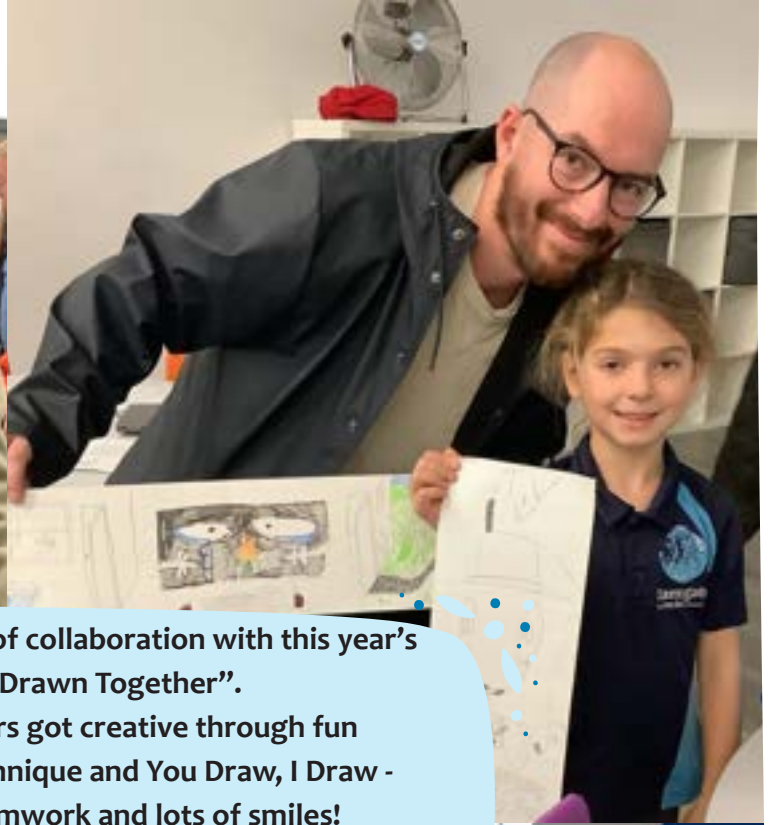
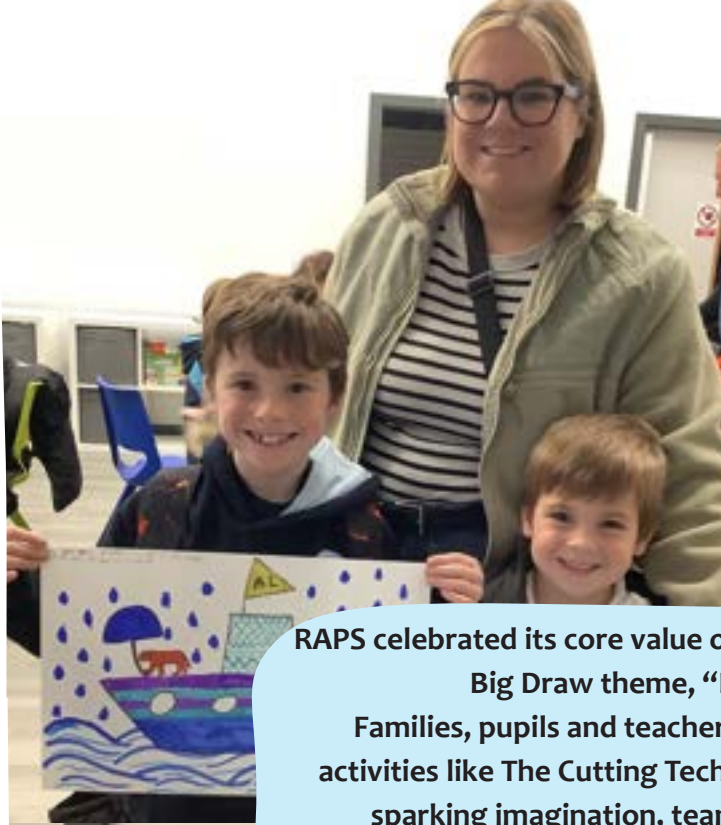
Merry Christmas!
Mr Budge



Term 2 Newsletter



What's In The News.

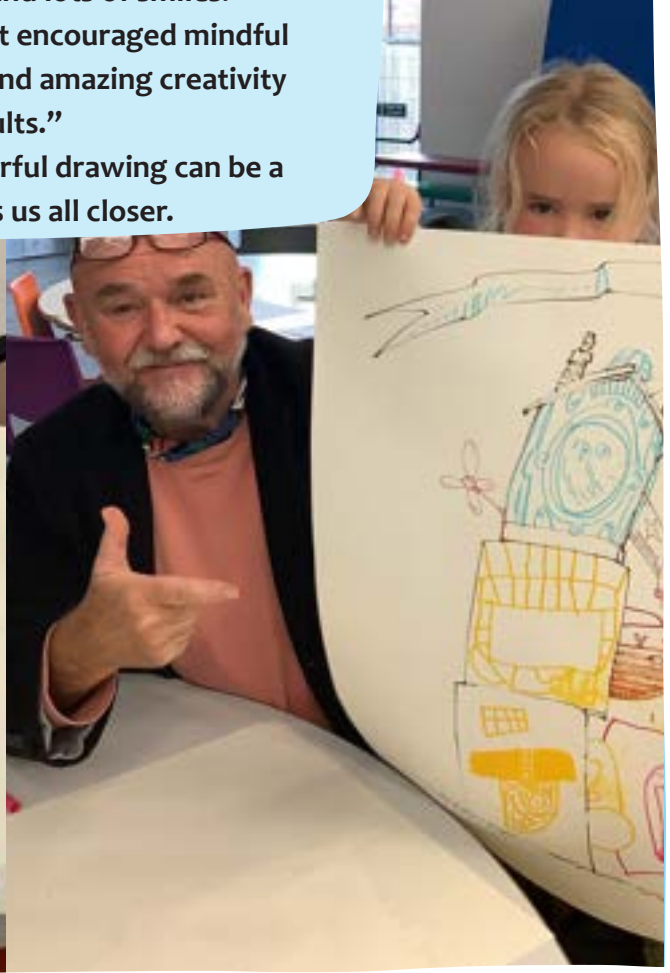


RAPS celebrated its core value of collaboration with this year's Big Draw theme, "Drawn Together".

Families, pupils and teachers got creative through fun activities like The Cutting Technique and You Draw, I Draw - sparking imagination, teamwork and lots of smiles!

Art teacher Kelly Smith said "The event encouraged mindful moments, meaningful conversations and amazing creativity from children and adults."

"Drawn Together" showed how powerful drawing can be a universal language that brings us all closer.



Term 2 Newsletter



What's In The News.



Year 2's inspiration for their Art to Start was the artist, Andy Goldsworthy. Children explored his sculptures, discussing the materials he uses and the locations his art is found in. They learnt about how Andy makes sculptures using natural materials in the UK and around the world including in forests, fields or cities. They then tried to be like Andy Goldsworthy themselves, taking their learning outside to collaborate and create. Children used natural materials such as stones, conkers, sticks, leaves, grass and pinecones to create their own sculptures. What beautiful creations from our Year 2s!



**MOMENTS
MATTER.
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Term 2 Newsletter



What's In The News.



Reception children at RAPS have been learning about the importance of a good night's sleep.

They discovered how bedtime routines like turning off screens, reading, and relaxing with calming scents help them rest.

During our Sleep Awareness afternoon, they enjoyed lavender water, calming colouring, stories, and peaceful music.

At RAPS, we know good sleep helps children feel happier, more focused, and ready to learn.



Term 2 Newsletter



What's In The News.



Year 6 pupils from RAPS travelled back to Victorian Britain at the Museum of Kent Life.

They wrote on slates, made rag rugs, learned nursing skills with 'Florence Nightingale', and experienced life below stairs.

The visit gave pupils a glimpse into the past, helping them compare life then and now.

A fascinating day full of history, learning, and fun!

Term 2 Newsletter



Upcoming Events

- Reception Team Piper - Forest School @Quex -
Mon 15th Dec
- Reception Team Cole - Forest School @Quex -
Tues 16th Dec

See Christmas Events Below.

Christmas

AT RAPS

3rd December - KS2 Christmas Sing Along - 3pm-3.45pm

8th December - Christmas Wreath Workshop - All Day

9th December - Yr 2 Christmas Performance

@9am & Party Pm

10th December - Yr 1 Nativity 9am & Party PM

11th December - RockSteady Concert- 9am

12th December - Reception Christmas Performance/Parents
Crafts 9am & Party PM (Sign Up)

12th December - Yr 6 To Visit the Corner

15th December - Yr 3 & 4 Christmas Performance 9am &
Party PM

16th December - Yr 5 & 6 Christmas Party AM

16th December - RockSteady Concert 9am

16th December KS1 Grotto & Santa Visit

17th December - Yr5 & 6 Christmas Performance

9am - Team Pressley & Team Beraet

2pm - Team Godwin & Team Williams

18th December - KS2 Pantomime 9.30am

18th December - Christmas Jumper Day/ Christmas Lunch

18th December - Last day of Term- 2pm Finish

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

From all at RAPS.

Term 2 Newsletter



Reminders.



SNACKS AT BREAKTIMES

Please can snacks brought into school be healthy – e.g. fruit, vegetables, cereal bars or popcorn etc. We do not consider crisps, cakes, pastries, chocolate confectionary or sweets to be an appropriate healthy snack and therefore cannot be eaten during break.



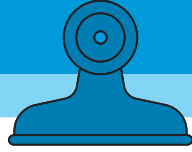
NAMING CLOTHING

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.

Term 2 Newsletter



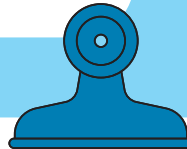
Reminders.



PARKING

Please be considerate and kind when parking on and around the school grounds.

Please park safely in the designated parking spaces provided.



DOGS ON SITE

Just a quick reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school site, only guide dogs. If outside the gates, please keep them under control,

Thank you.



MOMENTS
MATTER.
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.

Term 2 Newsletter



Reminders.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please make sure your child is wearing correct school uniform/P.E Kit with suitable trainers. Plain dark blue t-shirts/jumpers for PE are acceptable.



WEATHER.

Please make sure that your child has sun cream and a hat for the warmer weather and a warm coat/raincoat for the colder months.

Newsletter ^{Term 2}



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