



NEWSLETTER

TERM 1

SEPT/OCT 2026

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the final week of Term 1. The term has flown by and it has been wonderful to see the children settle so quickly into their new classes and routines. Across the school, classrooms have been busy, positive and purposeful, with children embracing opportunities to learn, create and achieve.

As we approach the end of the term, we would like to thank families for their continued support. The partnership between home and school plays such an important role in helping children thrive, and we greatly value the support, encouragement and communication we receive from our community. Thank you also to all the families who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions earlier this term. These meetings provided a valuable opportunity for teaching teams to share expectations, routines and plans for the year ahead. We are very grateful for the positive engagement shown by so many.

Parent Feedback

Last term, we asked parents for their feedback about what was going well and what could be even better, and we would like to thank the many parents who responded. We are very grateful for the time and thought families gave to sharing their views with us.

The parental sentiment is overwhelmingly positive. Parents consistently report that children are happy, safe, making strong academic progress and well supported by staff. Staff relationships were frequently praised, alongside pastoral care and teaching quality, which is wonderful to hear.

There were also several helpful suggestions for improvement, and these have informed our school improvement planning for the year ahead. We value both the positive feedback and constructive ideas, as both help us continue to improve for our children and community.

Getting Better Never Stops at RAPS

Getting better never stops at RAPS because we are always striving to improve. We use feedback from children, parents and staff alongside analysis of assessment information, behaviour data, attendance patterns and teaching reviews. We also consider local and national developments, all of which help us shape our priorities for the year ahead.



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Our key priorities reflect our shared commitment to every child:

-  Inspire every child through an exceptional RAPS curriculum.
-  Build a culture of positive relationships.
-  Ensure every learner achieves their best.
-  Close gaps and raise aspirations.
-  Grow together through evidence-informed practice.
-  Make school a place children want to be.
-  Develop resilient, confident and independent young people.
-  Prepare our community for a digital future.

We are proud of the progress made this term and look forward to continuing this work throughout the year.

Thank You for Supporting RAPS Fest

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported RAPS Fest. It was fantastic to see so many families coming together to celebrate our school community. Events like these not only provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another but also help raise valuable funds that directly benefit our children.

Thank you to the Parent Council, staff volunteers and everyone who gave their time to make the event such a success. A special mention has to go to Jess Greene-Taylor, Anna Blue and Lila Allen who were integral in pulling everything together. We are extremely grateful for your support and raised £3183.50, this money will go towards buying Air conditioning for the Reception and KS1 classrooms.

We wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 2, ready for another exciting term of learning and achievement at RAPS.

Many thanks,

Nick Budge.



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INCLUSION & WELLBEING



Mindful Mondays at RAPS

A gentle, connected start to the school week



Settling in, connecting and feeling ready

After the weekend, Mindful Mondays give children time to settle back into school and reconnect with their teachers and friends through play and creative activities.

Learning to understand our feelings

We help children notice feelings in their bodies, name them and communicate them using words, visuals or support from an adult. Together, we practise strategies to regulate - helping our bodies and emotions feel more settled.

Breathing • Guided stories • Check-ins • Threading, sorting and drawing

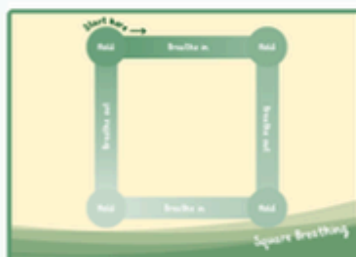
Our check-ins: "If you were a...?"

Children choose a weather type, colour or animal and explain why. This opens a gentle conversation about how they feel.



"What do you notice in your body?" "What might help you?"

Breathing techniques to try together



Square breathing



Hand breathing

Let your child show you how. Keep breathing gentle and comfortable.

More guided stories and resources: relaxkids.com



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ONLINE SAFETY: WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

As our children spend more time online, we wanted to take a moment to remind families about the importance of online safety and knowing what our children are accessing and who they are interacting with.

Many of our pupils enjoy platforms and games such as Minecraft, Fortnite and social media. We encourage parents and carers to regularly check the games, apps and platforms their children are using and to make sure they are appropriate for their age.

Age restrictions are there to help keep children safe. For example, Minecraft is rated 7+ and Fortnite is rated 12+. Most social media platforms currently have a minimum age of 13. From Spring 2027, new UK legislation is expected to prevent social media platforms from offering their services to children under 16.

It is also important to know who your child is communicating or playing with online. Taking a few minutes to check privacy settings, chat functions and friend lists can make a real difference. We also encourage parents to talk regularly with their children about who they are interacting with online and what they should do if something makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or unsure.

Talking about online safety

We encourage all families to have regular, open conversations about online safety. Asking simple questions such as “What have you been playing today?”, “Who do you play with?” or “Has anything happened online that made you feel uncomfortable?” can help children feel confident talking about their experiences.

As a school, we will continue to reinforce these important messages with our pupils. However, online safety is most effective when school and home work together. We know that being online is a normal part of growing up today, and our aim is not to stop children enjoying these spaces. Instead, we want to help them develop the knowledge and confidence to use technology safely, responsibly and appropriately for their age.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe both in school and online.



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RAPS PTFA

RAPS Fest might feel like a distant dream now, but the magic certainly happened! A huge thank you to everyone who came along, volunteered and helped us raise an incredible £3,183.50. Every penny will go towards improving our school for the children.

This year, we're fundraising to ensure that every classroom is equipped with air conditioning. Following a sweltering summer, we're also exploring ways to provide much-needed shelter in the playground.

What's coming up?

The Parent Council organises six fundraising events each year, bringing our school community together while raising vital funds. Two dates for your diary are:

- Friday 13th November: School Disco for Reception to Year 6
- Monday 16th December: Santa's Grotto

Help us make a difference!

Last year, we raised an amazing £10,000, which helped us complete the school's Nurture Cabin. This fantastic space is now in daily use, making a real difference to the children who benefit from it. This year, we're aiming to beat that target – and we'd love your help! We're always keen to welcome new members to the Parent Council. Don't worry, though, you don't need to make a big commitment. Whether you can spare a couple of hours volunteering at an event, share some fundraising ideas or get involved more regularly, every little bit helps. It's also a lovely way to meet other parents and become more involved in our school community. As we work towards establishing a formal PTA, we'd particularly love to hear from any parents or carers with accountancy experience who might be able to offer advice and support.

Come and get involved!

We'll be holding a "Get to Know Us" event soon, giving you the chance to meet the team and find out more about what we do.

In the meantime, you can join our WhatsApp group to stay up to date, or speak to Mrs Greene-Taylor (formerly Miss Goode) at reception for more information. The QR code is held at the main office.

Every contribution makes a difference, and together we can make our school an even better place for our children. We'd love to have you on board!



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CHRISTMAS AT RAPS

Christmas at Raps

- 1st December - RockSteady Concert 9am
- 3rd December - RockSteady Concert- 9am
- 7th December - Christmas Wreath Workshop - 2.30pm-4pm
- 8th December - Yr 3 & Yr 4 Christmas Performance 9am & Party PM
- 9th December - Yr 1 Nativity 9am & Party PM
- 10th December - Yr 2 Christmas Performance @9am & Party Pm
- 11th December - Reception Christmas Performance/Parents Crafts 9am & Party PM (Sign Up)
- 14th December - Reception trip to Quex Forest school- Team Gilbert
- 14th December - Yr 5 & 6 Christmas Party
- 15th December - Reception trip to Quex Forest school- Team Piper
- 15th December - Yr5 & 6 Christmas Performance
 - 9am - Team Pressley & Team Beraet
 - 2pm - Team Godwin & Team Williams
- 16th December KS1 Grotto & Santa Visit
- 17th December - KS2 Pantomime @Granville 9.00am
- 18th December - Christmas Jumper Day/ Christmas Dinner
- 18th December - Last day of Term- 2pm Finish



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UNIFORM & 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 with blue joggers/shorts, please see examples below.

Please only **small** blue hair bands or **small** blue hair bows.

Please make sure all items of school uniform are named so that we can return to the correct child.



RAPS SOCIALS

Please scan below to find out
more..



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**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



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