



## School Newsletter

Friday 17th May, 2019

Newsletter 15

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next year we will be entering our fifth anniversary of being Ramsgate Free School/Ramsgate Arts Primary School and third in our existing building. The school has grown rapidly over the past few years in many respects, and when I think back to the beginning of our journey, when we first opened in the two mobiles in Chilton's playground, I am so very proud of just how far we've come. There are however, many facts we still hold dear: that every child is an individual and are known by all staff members; that the wellbeing and broad education of your child will always be our priority and how the school and staff continue to be accessible to the parent community. As we continue to grow I think it is extremely important that the whole school community is involved in the future direction of our school. Every year we create a 'School Improvement Plan' that highlights the areas we want to improve upon and new ideas we would like to implement to make our school even better.

I have always believed that parents have a significant role in supporting us to ensure that their child receives the best educational experience possible, and, as a result, we want your views on what has gone well this year and areas that you feel we could improve. These views will form the basis of our 'School Improvement Plan' for the coming year.

With this in mind, please complete this brief form and help us to provide a first class education for every one of our children in the Viking Academy Trust.

<http://app.keysurvey.co.uk/f/1135173/1746/>

The link will be open until the Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, so it would be fantastic if we could have as much feedback as possible.

Thank you.

**Cultural Diversity Day** On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, we are again going to have our Cultural Diversity Day (last year's was a fantastic success). One of our school values is 'diversity', and what better way to celebrate this than through exploring cultural diversity through our arts curriculum, through music, dance, drama, art and food from different cultures. The children will spend the day learning about and celebrating all the different cultures and nationalities that make up the community of Ramsgate Arts Primary School.

Principals, our caterers, are joining in our Cultural Diversity Day, by offering a range of cultural dishes for lunch. If parents would also like to help widen the range of cultural dishes, by cooking dishes from their own family's cultural heritage or one that interests them, that would be fantastic! If these could be brought into school for the children to try, that would be greatly appreciated. Please let myself, Mrs Beech or the office know. For those of you who have signed up to come to our Cultural Food Tasting by returning your slip that was attached to the last Newsletter, it would be great if you could bring a dish that you would be willing to share.

### Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Cultural Diversity Day

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May –Year 3 trip to Tate Modern

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – End of Term

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Yr 6 Residential to Isle of Wight**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – INSET Day

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June - Children back to school

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 back from residential by 8.00

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Reception-Hearing and Vision

6.00-Meeting for **next years** Reception

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Viking Games for Yrs 5&6

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June –Viking Games for Reception

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June-Viking Games for Yrs 1& 2

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June –Viking Games Yrs 3&4

6.00-PESE Mtg (Kent tests) for Yr 5 parents

Principals will also provide a range of taster pots for parents to try. For this to work successfully, we will have staggered lunch times and will be issuing tickets to families/carers who have returned their slip. Please note, due to its huge popularity last year and the need to ascertain numbers, only families with tickets will be allocated the taster pots. See below timings for parents. If you come to the entrance foyer, you will then be directed to collect your child for lunch.

Year Group	Time to arrive at school
<b>Reception parents</b>	<b>11.30</b>
<b>Years 1 and 2 parents</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>Years 3 and 4 parents</b>	<b>12.30</b>
<b>Years 5 and 6 parents</b>	<b>12.45</b>

### Robots, Bridges and Eggs Engineering Challenge for Girls

An after school club run by professionals from Cummins Power Generators has encouraged girls at RAPS to explore and develop their engineering skills and has caught the imagination of girls from Years 1 to 6, who are now keen to do more in the subject at a time when there are only around 10% of women working as engineers in the UK.

The girls were set a series of tasks to work out using their own current skills plus advice from their Cummins tutors. The aim was to show how fun and exciting science and engineering is through innovating, creating and building real-life models. Working in mixed-age teams, the girls tackled a number of tasks that included using K'nex building kits, making a walking robot, as well as a drain pipe and cup stack challenge. They also built a sturdy miniature bridge using basic materials and worked out a way to protect an egg when it was dropped from a series of increasing heights using rubber bands, lollipop sticks, string, pipe-cleaners and plastic bags.



As there are currently not many girls who decide to take up engineering as a career, it is important to give the girls an understanding of physics, mechanics and science at an early age so they begin to develop a solid foundation of engineering experience. The Cummins project also encourages collaboration and teamwork, helps develop problem-solving and trouble-shooting skills, and have fun with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths). The children found the workshops fascinating and made the following comments:

“I really want to be an engineer when I am older. I loved making the robots and solving the problem of how to drop an egg from a height without it smashing. It is amazing fun making the bridges and trying to get them to be strong enough,” (Ruby, Year 5) “I really enjoy making things. It is interesting.” (Sienna, Year 1)

STEAM topics and projects are important to us as an Arts Primary because it gives our children a real diversity of learning. Working with professionals from Cummins has been a rewarding experience for our pupils and has enriched their skills-base as well as broadening their horizons.



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## Year 6 trip to Ramsgate Tunnels

Life in wartime Ramsgate has been experienced by children from Ramsgate Arts Primary School. The Year 6 pupils heard how lives of children and families were changed forever when WWII broke out 80 years ago. When the bombing raids headed across the English Channel to our shores, Ramsgate was one of the towns in the front-line of the attack. Tunnels dug into the chalk under the town subsequently became a safe-haven for residents who spent days and nights living and sheltering safe below ground.



Our Year 6 children were investigating what life was like for their counterparts in 1939 onwards as part of their World at War topic. It was fascinating for them to find out first-hand how people adapted to such a change in their lives. When the children went underground they wore hard hats and used torches and headed down the old railway tunnel to the smaller tunnels that were cut out for people during the air raids in 1940. There were parts in which they had to use torches as there were no lights whatsoever. At one point, they were about 70 metres below the surface of Ramsgate – the air felt very damp and chilly. They found out an interesting fact about navigation: the tunnels were designed to mimic the roads above so that people could gauge a rough idea of where they were underground. The children learned a lot about the lives of people in the 1940s living in Ramsgate and the visit to the tunnels is a really worthwhile experience.



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## Year 3 Pioneering Places Project

The latest in a series of workshops with partner Turner Contemporary at Margate saw the children discuss and create a range of ideas they would like to see in their home town including a new library and a hotel for homeless people complete with tiered bunk beds and a central food store. They also learnt how to design, saw and hammer wooden structures to create a possible living space using timber, trellis and poles, create fixtures and fittings for it including a roof terrace and a toilet for their space using clay and playdough, and they directed an architect to sketch ideas for the town, including an outdoor leisure area with a range of attractions and amenities.



Throughout the three year project, launched in 2018, the children have been working with Turner Contemporary Navigators, Jo Ursell and Lucy Pettet, the children's chosen artist Babalola Yusuf, and Heritage Researcher Libby Scarlett, who works alongside pupils in school each week. The children – known as Young Arts and Heritage Leaders - will drive the project until its conclusion in 2020, collaborating with Turner Prize winning collective Assemble, who led the recent two-day focus session. Through their work in the unique initiative they are exploring the heritage associated with the Royal Harbour and finding out what Ramsgate means to them and to its residents, connecting communities through the stories they uncover. It is planned that a major new artwork will be commissioned and installed near Ramsgate harbour.