



School Newsletter

Friday 8th November 2019

Newsletter 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of Term 2. This term is one of my favourites, with the added festive buzz and excitement that fills the corridors. It truly is a magical and fantastic time at school, culminating in our Christmas celebrations. With the evenings now darker and the weather changing, it really does feel as though winter is marching towards us; however, at RAPS, the weather rarely affects any of the events and activities that run across the school every week.

Our Christmas events have been posted on the Calendar section of the website since the beginning of term (latest news /calendar) to ensure that working parents are able to plan ahead. I have also put the timings in the 'Dates for your diary' section (see right). We will also endeavour to send out reminders via our MCAS service, so please ensure we have your up-to-date mobile number and email address. Details of events will also be posted on our official Facebook and Twitter accounts, which give accurate information about our school events as well as the learning that is taking place at RAPS. The links can be found on the top of our Website. Please can I stress that if you are unsure about any school information, check with us via official school avenues. The RAPS team are very accessible and are happy to help, so do not hesitate in approaching the front-office staff, teachers, support staff or myself. I hope you feel we very much have an open-door policy at RAPS.

RAPS Family Cookbook

This is a request for all your favourite family recipes!

We would like you to share the recipes that your children ask for time and time again, as we are hoping to publish your tried-and-tested, much-loved meals in a **RAPS family cookbook**. This will be illustrated by the children and sold to raise funds for the school. **Aptly, the money raised will go towards a Kitchen Garden!**

We are sure that the book, a celebration of the food RAPS families love to cook at home, will make a perfect gift and will be packed full of inspiration for when you get stuck in a rut, wondering 'what shall we cook for dinner?'

Please send your recipes (including ingredients, quantities and method) to lauranickoll@yahoo.com, including a picture of the dish (if you have one). If there is a story behind the recipe that you'd like to share, please do include it too.



Dates for your diary:

New Parents' Tours for 2020-2021 every Thursday this term - 9.30, 10.45, 1.15 and 6.30. Please contact the office to book a tour.

Wednesday 12th November – Parent Council AGM @ 3.15

Friday 22nd November – Closing date for Viking Academy Art Prize

Monday 2nd December Viking Academy Art Prize – Private viewing

Wednesday 11th December – Whole-school Christmas Panto

Thursday 12th December - Reception Christmas Performance – 2.00

Friday 13th December – 1.00 - 3.00 - Christmas Fayre and Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 16th December - Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance – 2.00

Tuesday 17th December - KS2 Christmas Performance – 3.00

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Dinner

School closes at 2.00

Leading British artist chosen to create harbour installation

You may have seen in the local news that leading British artist, Conrad Shawcross, has been commissioned to make a new artwork for Ramsgate Royal Harbour. Ramsgate Arts Primary School working alongside St Lawrence Junior School interviewed and selected Shawcross to create an artwork for the town. They have asked that it responds to the themes of 'play and playfulness', 'caring' and 'modern machinery'.



The resulting work will be a series of bright, modular, mechanical disks, to be placed in and around the beach and Royal Harbour area. Our children will have the opportunity to work alongside the artist to select the location and develop the work over the next few months, ready to be launched in July.

The series of works will be lightweight in design and involve simple, visible mechanics that show gears and cogs and the power of the wind. Involving different colour combinations, the sculptures will be made out of materials such as galvanised steel, stainless steel and powder-coated or anodised aluminium.

Conrad has completed a number of major public commissions across the world and, as well as being the youngest living member of the Royal Academy of Arts, was one of the first artists to be shown at Turner Contemporary when it opened in 2011.

The pupils have been working with Turner Contemporary on the 'Pioneering Places' project in the capacity of Young Arts and Heritage Leaders over the past year, learning about the heritage of Ramsgate and recruiting artists and heritage researchers for the project. The shortlisted artists used the children's research from the first year of the project as a basis for their proposals for the artwork. Among their collaborators are the Turner Prize winning collective Assemble who have been commissioned to create a toolkit which aims to inform planners, decision makers and those in the education and creative sectors about how children can positively contribute to place making.

Viking Academy Trust Art Prize 2019

We are very pleased to announce our first ever art competition across all three schools in the trust. The Viking Academy Trust Art Prize is inspired by the famous Turner Prize, which is currently being held in Margate's Turner Contemporary Gallery. Inspired by the artwork you saw during Thursday's art assembly, we want you to make innovative art that is driven by your experiences and opinions. What does it mean to be you? What is important to you? What do you think is unfair in the world?

- Work can be any size, from very big to tiny and be either 2D or 3D
- You can use any material or process including Lego, animation, video, installation, clay, fabric, origami or painting
- All artwork needs to be handed in to your class teacher by Monday 25th November 2019
- Give your piece a title and a short description explaining the concept that inspired it
- Include your full name, class, year group and school

We look forward to seeing your exciting creations.

Mr Brown and Miss Vost

Spooky News: Frighteningly Good Fun!

The Spooky Arts Day gave the four and five year olds from Reception classes the chance to enjoy a range of activities in specially decorated themed classrooms. Pupils added to the atmosphere and were dressed and made up in their horrifying outfits including witches, skeletons, Dracula, dragons, ghosts, zombies and werewolves, as well as slightly less scary costumes including Spiderman and Super Mario.

Among the fun activities were: learning a spooky song; getting creative and making stars out of sticks and skeletons from cotton buds; cutting-out card to make a witches face and hat and then painting it ghastly green and black, and making pumpkin faces by printing in paint with cut apples.



Being immersed in lots of different arts activities for a whole day engaged pupils in a variety of creative styles using many different resources and techniques including weaving, chalk rubbing, painting and printing. Sensory activities awaited the young ghostbusters in the outdoor play-area, where they delved into frightful foam and spiders to find eyeballs, spiders and worms (pasta). They also cooked-up a monster mixture in the outdoor kitchen; making spells and using colourful mud in the creepy cooks' cauldron.

Michael Rosen

This week, Key Stage 2 had a fantastic opportunity to see Michael Rosen at the Theatre Royal Margate for the Children's Book show! As one of the finest children's poets and authors, the fifth Children's Laureate, and a passionate advocate of children's reading, Mr Rosen needs no introduction. His poetry performances delighted the children and I know inspired many of our children to start to read and write poetry.



Live @ RAPS

Each term, we are offering our pupils the chance to experience live music during a morning assembly. This exposure to live music gives them the chance to learn about different music genres, meet real musicians and experience the joy of hearing music live through mini concerts. During term one, we were lucky to have Sabina Desir and Jessica sing and perform jazz, and this term we were delighted to have Jon Nickoll perform swing music for the children. There is always a real buzz during the Live @ RAPS assemblies and we can't wait for next term's concert! If you are a talented parent or carer who would like to offer half an hour of your time to perform music for our young people, email or speak with Mrs Beech or Miss Dannell.



PARENT COUNCIL AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WHEN & WHERE?

Tuesday 12th Nov 2019
3:15pm
School Hall

WHO?

EVERYONE!
All parents and teachers

WHY?

- Vote in new committee members for the next year.
- Review last years events , the funds raised and what the council decided to contribute towards.
- Plan this years events and discuss where the funds raised would be best placed.
- Be part of the school community and make a difference to your child's education.

If you are interested in taking on one the key roles in the Parent Council then please contact our current Chair, Emma Jackson ASAP.

What is a Parent Council?

Most schools have a **Parent Council or Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**, which is an organisation of parents and staff. It's role is to encourage closer links between home and school. PTAs are best known for their **fundraising work**, but they have a useful social function too. Fundraising events provide an opportunity for parents, staff and pupils to get together.

How is the PTA organised?

At most schools all parents/carers and teachers are **automatically** members of the PTA.

Most PTAs hold their **annual general meeting** in September, at the start of the school year. At this meeting a **committee** is elected to run the PTA – usually consisting of a chair, a vice-chair; a treasurer; a secretary and ordinary committee members. These ordinary members include at least one, and often two, parents from each class as **'class reps'**. Their job is to pass on information from the PTA to other parents in their child's class.

PTA committees usually meet **once a term** and set up smaller working groups to organise individual events.

Some of the roles are time-consuming, although also rewarding. If you can't commit to a big job, look out for things you can do less frequently (eg running a stall at the summer fair, baking for a cake sale). And you can always support PTA events by simply **turning up**.

How is money raised?

Most PTAs raise money through **events**. They often hold one main event each school term – for example, a Christmas fair in the winter, a quiz in the spring, and a summer fair. Other PTA events include school uniform sales, discos, firework displays, international evenings and many more. They're always looking for new **fundraising** ideas.

How is money spent?

Funds raised by the PTA are intended to provide **'extras'** not already provided by the school's main income – often 'fun things' that make learning more interesting and exciting.

The PTA committee and the headteacher decide how to spend PTA funds. Common items include computers, playground equipment, a school minibus and smaller purchases such as presents for Father Christmas to distribute, or lights for a Divali celebration.

How can I be involved in the RAPs School Council?

There are many **different ways** you can help with the PTA, whether you have lots of time to offer or not.

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