



School Newsletter

Friday 24th January

Newsletter 8

In the News!

See below some of the stories that have made it in the news recently. If you would like to read more stories please go to our website or have a look at our Scrap Books in our front entrance.

Outside Learning Plan for RAPS

Ramsgate Arts Primary School is expanding its learning areas for children.

RAPS Landscape 2020 is a project aimed at improving facilities in the playground area at the rear of the main building. It will feature an outside classroom that will be utilised for a variety of subjects, topics and themes. Also included are areas of Astroturf and planters with shady trees, herbs and grasses to create natural and 'greener' play zones that will create a welcoming, softer visual impact in contrast to the current concreted surface.

Head of School, Nick Budge, said: "This is an important phase in the continual development of learning and recreational facilities for our children. Once the structures are installed, a RAPS parent is going to assist with the planting design to help create much-needed shade in the summer months."



Parent Council members, Charlotte Taylor and Melissa Hodder, met with Mr Budge to oversee the plans being transformed from initial sketches to design brief stage. They said: "This is an exciting project and will create a diverse learning environment for pupils. The Parent Council is happy to support initiatives that give children and staff greater resources to expand their potential through learning."

Mr Budge said that to safeguard the children during the works, the school has temporarily fenced-off the whole of the area being developed. Parents and families have already been informed via the regular RAPS newsletter how this may affect drop off and collection arrangements for their children.

Dates for your diary:

24th January- Hand Ball Competition

24th January - Viking Junior Leadership team meeting

29th January - Parent Workshop- 'Meltdowns and Shutdowns'

5th February - Young Voices @ the O2

6th February - LAB meeting

7th February - Comedy @RAPS

11th & 12th February - Parents Evening

14th February - Last day of term, 3.00pm finish

INSET Day 24th February

25th February - Back to school

5th March – World Book Day (Dressing up, letter to follow)

Week Beginning 16th March – Shakespeare Week

We would like to remind parents that only water is allowed in the children's water bottles for school.

There have been several children bringing in squash.

Thank you for your co-operation.

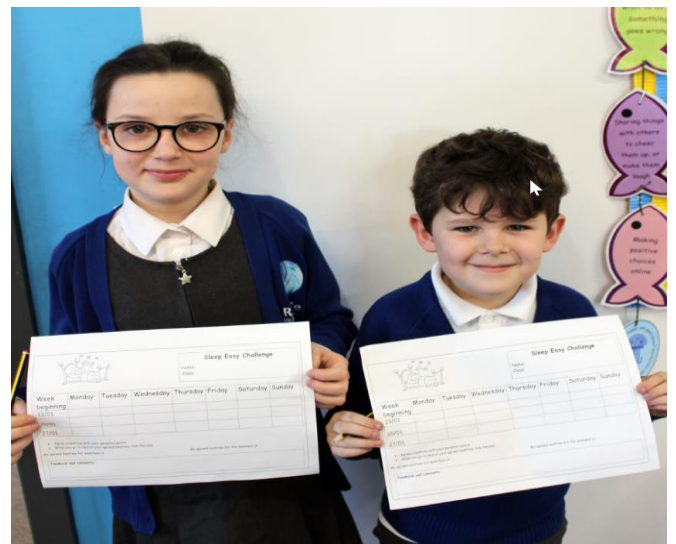
In the News continued....

RAPS Sleep Easy Challenge

Good quality sleep is vitally important to the well-being of young children, and pupils at Ramsgate Arts Primary have been set a fun challenge to identify why sleep is so beneficial. Following a special assembly to launch Sleep Easy, children explored what small but effective changes they can make to help them sleep better as well as activities they need to avoid right before bedtime, particularly using mobile phones, computers and tablets, and watching television.

Head of School, Nick Budge, said: “The well-being of the children is embedded into everything we do at RAPS, so with this in mind we began the first term of 2020 with the RAPS Sleep Easy Challenge.

On average we spend one third of our lives asleep and good quality sleep is vital for growth, mental well-being and a healthy immune system. Children aged between 4-11 need around 10-12 hours’ sleep a night (adults need around 7-9 hours but as parents most of us can only dream of this).



“We are challenging the children to think about how much sleep they need, how much they have every night and asking is there anything they could do to improve the quality of their sleep.”

Pupils have been given their own sleep diaries to fill in over a three-week period to monitor their sleep arrangements. Completed diaries will be returned to school and entered into a prize draw where one child from KS1 and one from KS2 have the chance to win some sleep-themed goodies to help them continue to get a good night’s rest.

Rosie from Year 5 and George from Year 4 are already filling in their diaries. They said: “It’s a good idea to see what time we go to sleep and how long for. We have learnt that we must avoid certain things like watching television or playing on computers or tablets before going to bed as they are activities that can keep us awake. It’s a fun thing to do.”

Victoria Elliott is co-ordinating the challenge. She said: “It has really caught the imagination of pupils of all ages and it will be interesting to see their sleep diaries and compare the data they record as the initiative progresses.”

Young Voices

On Wednesday 5th February, Ramsgate Arts Primary School's Singing Club will be joining the largest children's choir in the world - Young Voices. They will be heading to the O2 to sing in a concert alongside many other schools from the South East. Young Voices provides an unrivalled musical opportunity for primary school children to perform all styles of music including folk, pop, rock and classical. The concert is designed to unify children from across the region, boost their confidence and provide lifelong memories for them and their families. Singing Club members have been practising dance routines and learning the songs with Miss Dannell and Miss Rees-Boughton for many months now before they come together for the penultimate show at the O2. As you will agree, this is an unmissable opportunity for them to sing in a huge arena alongside some of the most talented & well-known artists from the world of music.

Parent/Teacher's Meetings

Parent's Evening appointments for all Year groups are now available to book for the 11th and 12th February. You can book appointments via the MCAS App or using the MCAS tab in the top right hand corner of the RAPS website. If you have any problems doing this please contact the school office where we will be happy to help you.

Ramsgate Comedy Club

Once again, we are hosting a comedy night with all profits being directly donated to the school. For anyone who came to our last comedy night (over a year ago), they will remember it was a great night with quality acts and a lot of money was raised that went towards purchasing the school stage. The night is organised by the Parent Council and features professional acts that are found performing all over the country.

This time the acts include:

- El Baldiniho, a comedy magician who is a regular at The Comedy Store and was also on the last series of Britain's Got Talent.
- Local act, Steve Balding, who has played many famous venues and also organises the Comedy Island Comedy Festival.

 RAMSGATE COMEDY CLUB .	Strictly Over 18s
FEATURING PROFESSIONAL ACTS REGULARLY PERFORMING AT UK'S TOP COMEDY CLUBS.	Featuring:
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS	El Baldiniho (Comedy Store, BGT)
WHEN Friday, February 7th. Doors 7pm Show 8pm	Steve Balding (Comedy Island Comedy Festival)
WHERE Ramsgate Arts Primary School 140-144 Newington Road CT12 6PP	Lloyd Hollett (Marlowe Panto regular, Jim Davison tour support)
TICKETS - HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/RAMSGATEARTSPRIMARYSCHOOLPTFA/319793	TICKETS £10 per person All Proceeds direct to the school.

The headline act is Lloyd Hollett, a legend of Canterbury's famous Marlowe Panto, as well as his own sell-out tours and has been performing for thirty years.

There will be a limited cash bar available or feel free to bring your own drinks. **Tickets are only £10 each and are available now, online at:**

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ramsgateartsprimaryschoolptfa/319793>

(This link is clickable on the RAPS parents FB page)

Any questions can be directed to the Parent Council.

Attendance and Lateness

Every Day Counts: School attendance is vital for young people to reach their full potential and is therefore a priority for Ramsgate Arts Primary School. We are constantly monitoring pupil attendance and want to work together with parents to help ensure **excellent** attendance and punctuality. Our whole-school attendance so far this year is 95.13%, which is below our Trust expectation of 97%. If we break this down to this term and class, our attendance looks like this.

	Term 1	Term2
Team Barnes	96.96%	95.26%
Team Spurrier	98.05%	96.48%
Team Aitkin	95.78%	95.59%
Team Smart	94.60%	93.71%
Team Rees-Boughton	93.81%	95.05%
Team Beraet	95.36%	94.59%
Team Amin	95.79%	95.63%
Team Gunson	94.66%	95.54%
Team Dannell	90.82%	93.40%

Anything less than 95% will have a serious impact on achievement and children will do much less well than they should. In terms of school days missed in one academic year:

98% attendance = less than 4 days absence
95% = less than 10 days absence
90% = 4 weeks absence
85% = 5 ½ weeks absence
80% = 7 ½ weeks absence

Over five school years: 85-90% attendance = roughly half a school year missed 80% attendance = one whole school year missed. We do understand that as parents you are in the best position to judge whether your child is well enough to attend school. Avoidable absence for days out, long weekends and holidays are absences that I would ask you to consider carefully before taking your child out of school. Attendance regulations dictate that Headteachers are not permitted to authorise leaves of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Leave can only be considered upon the completion of an absence request form – available from the office.

Please also remember that our doors open at 8.15 and the school day starts at 8.30 – being in school on time ensures that your child is ready to start the day the right way.

Every minute Counts-Lateness means lost learning (figures below calculated over a whole year)

5 minutes late each day=3 days lost
10 minutes late each day=6.5days lost
15 minutes lost each day=10 days lost
20 minutes late each day =13 days lost
30 minutes late each day =19 days lost

Parking

I understand that at drop-off and pick-up times that it can be difficult to find a parking place either in the drop-area or parking bays the school provides. To relieve this congestion, many of you are now opting to park in the nearby local roads. Unfortunately, I have had several complaints over the past couple of weeks that RAPS parents/carers parking is becoming a serious concern and a danger to pupils and local residents. It has been reported that parents are parking on pavements, double yellow lines and actually on the junctions surrounding the school. This makes it impossible so see oncoming vehicles or pedestrians, and is illegal. The roads worst affected are Kings and Princes Ave. I know that one of the local residents informed the police after an altercation, with someone whom he presumes is one of our parents. Can I please ask parents to stop and think about where they park, ensuring that they are parking safely and legally. I thank you for your ongoing co-operation.



Cakes for Koalas

Following the tragic news about the ongoing fires that Australia have been faced with, the RAPS JLT decided that they would like to organise a whole-school fund raising event to help some of the many animals that have been impacted by the fires. As a result, the children came up with the idea of selling cakes and donating all money raised to the WWF, who are doing some great work to rescue, care for and rehabilitate the animals that have sadly been injured or have lost their homes. An assembly was held whereby the children learnt about the causes and impact of the fires in a sensitive and child-appropriate way, and cake sales have been going on throughout the week. As a school, we have managed to raise over £200! We are so proud to show the RAPS children that they can make a difference. We would like to say a very big THANK YOU for your support with the event, which we feel has taught our pupils that helping charities is a great way to support others during times of need.

Childcare Choices

We've signed up for
Tax-Free
Childcare:
Have you?



 HM Government

Find out more at
[childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Tax-Free Childcare!

Tax-Free Childcare is a Government scheme which will give eligible families up to £2,000 per child towards childcare costs. Our school has signed up for the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme to assist our parents in paying for Breakfast Club, After School Club and Holiday Club.

The scheme is open to employed and self-employed parents. There is a minimum income requirement (currently £131 per week) and maximum annual income cut-off (currently £100,000).

If you would like to apply for this scheme to help you save on your childcare costs, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare>