



School Newsletter

Friday 14th February
Newsletter 9

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I always feel that I am very fortunate being the Head of School of RAPS, indeed, I often talk in the Newsletters about how lucky I am to be a part of such a fantastic team. This new school is committed to offering your children a curriculum that will equip them for the future, built upon creativity which runs throughout our innovative and inspirational Arts Curriculum.

Sometimes my role takes me to interesting meetings and venues; a few weeks ago I was at a Symposium at the Royal Opera House in London with like-minded Head teachers from across the country, discussing how we could enhance the 'Arts' across all schools country wide. A part of this conference saw the release of an in-depth, fact-finding report on 'Arts-Rich Schools' which was completed by the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce). The report focused on case studies of schools, which had a highly developed arts-based pedagogy that shaped their school curriculum, and schools that seek to prioritise teaching of a high-quality arts curriculum.

Of the eight nationwide schools that were chosen to feature in this report, RAPS was the only Kent school. The report highlights our use of dedicated art spaces, giving the arts a high status; our developing partnerships with the Turner Contemporary, Dreamland Margate, the National Gallery, and regular professional dance, drama, music and artistic sessions with specialist staff. It concludes that RAPS is: 'steadfastly committed to the arts. In doing so, they have consistently delivered curriculum breadth and cultural capital to their pupils.'

Needless to say, I am very proud of our achievements so far and am excited that RAPS is developing and improving our Arts Curriculum all the time. To be one of just eight schools nationwide looked at as 'arts rich' as a part of a very detailed overview of arts in education is a superb acknowledgement of the work we do at RAPS. I can't wait for the RSA to come back again in three years' time to see how we have evolved and progressed even further.

If you would like to read the report in full it can be found on the link below.

<https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/arts-cultural-schools/>

Have a lovely half-term

Dates for your diary:

- 14th February – Last day of term - 3.00 finish
- INSET Day - 24th February
- 25th February - Back to school
- 26th February –Yr 1 and 2 Bonhomme
- 28th February 2.30-Yr 1 Behaviour mtg in hall
- 2nd March POW Mask Making Workshop for children with parents
- Yr 5 /6 Hockey Competition @ Chatham & Clarendon
- 3rd March –Speaker Competition@ Upton
- 5th March – World Book Day –book character dress up
- 6th POW Opening Event outside Whetherspoons Ramsgate
- 7th March Quex Park cross country.
- 9th March Yr6 SALUS Event @ Dreamland.
- 10th March –Yr 5 History Workshop.
- 11th March-Yr 3&4 Quex Park.
- Week Beginning 16th March – Shakespeare Week-more details to follow.**
- 24th March Festival of Song
- 31st March-9.30-Rocksteady Concert
3.00-Year 2 SATS mtg
- 1st April –Children's Spring Concert
- School finishes at 2.00pm**

RAPS at the National Gallery

Artwork by Ramsgate Arts Primary pupils has been shortlisted for an exhibition at the world famous National Gallery in London. Children took part in the nationwide 'Take One Picture' project run by the gallery last year and created a variety of pieces inspired by one picture – the Men of the Docks by George Bellows, painted in 1912. The painting led to the creation of all sorts of works and we are now waiting to see if some of them will be part of an exhibition at the National in the summer.

RAPS' second annual exhibition of the gallery's 'Take One Picture' project is now on long-term display in the school's main reception area. The 2020 theme is The Battle of San Romano by Paolo Uccello. The painting captures the conflict between the troops of Florence and Siena in 1432.

Each year-group contributed. Team Smart loved the horses in the picture and their class topic was toys so they decided to make Hobby Horses. They learnt about horses, the history of Hobby Horses and horses in art. Team Spurrier noticed some really beautiful flowers in the background of the picture. They felt they represented 'Love and Peace'. They invited their families and carers in to make flowers for our wall and added messages on paper tags of love and support.



Team Rees-Boughton reflected on the battle, the children noticing its dark colours. They created silhouettes of the battle and focused on the main characters. Team Gunson made a 'Souls of Paradise' mobile. They thought about war and the sadness it creates, they learnt about Sadoko Sasaki, who died of radiation-induced Leukaemia years after the atom bomb had fallen near her home in Hiroshima, Japan. Sadoko created one thousand origami cranes in hope of survival, so they made a mobile in honour of her and as an international symbol of hope and peace. The exhibition also includes a range of shields containing the children's own heraldic designs, a selection of brightly coloured stylish hats, and a soldier in armour and mail created by pupils. Do take time to come and look at the fabulous work the children have produced.

Safer Internet Day

In today's modern world, the use of social media is somewhat inevitable for young people as they grow into teenagers. There are, of course, benefits to using social media, such as communication with distant relatives or friends. However, we would like to remind parents and carers that social media is not advised for children below age 13, and age restrictions apply to social media accounts for good reason. The use of social media by under-age children is increasingly a nationwide issue, with many children being exposed to risks such as: contact with strangers; significant emotional risk; social conflict; hacking of personal information and data, and exposure to inappropriate content. We ask that you pay close attention to the age restrictions set by social media providers.

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, we want to ensure that pupils understand, value and utilise online safety strategies to help keep themselves safe. Last Tuesday was Safer Internet Day at RAPS and Mrs Smart led an Internet Safety Assembly that looked at this. Through our curriculum we are also:

- Teaching pupils how to use the internet safely.
- Advising pupils against using social media or online games that are above their age range.
- Holding special assemblies or talks, particularly around 'Safer Internet Day'.
- Teaching pupils how to act respectfully online towards others, discussing issues around cyber-bullying.

Last year, I shared with you the table below showing the recommended ages for children to use different social media platforms. I thought it would be useful to share this once again, as we are finding an increasing number of children are bringing into school issues stemming from their usage of social media out of school.

Social media used by our children -

Social Media	Snapchat	Facebook	Instagram	WhatsApp	Musical.ly, now named 'TikTok' or Lyke	YouTube
Legal Age	Age 13+	Age 13+	Age 13+	Age 16+	Not stated- common sense verdict 16+	18+ or 13+ with parental consent
Type	Private messages, live photo and video sharing	Private and public messages, photo and video sharing, link sharing	Photo sharing, live video sharing, private messages, link sharing	Private messages, photo sharing, link sharing	Video sharing, private messaging	Video sharing, private messaging

Head-lice

There have been multiple cases of head lice reported across all year groups, please check your children's hair and treat accordingly. If everyone checks their child's head for lice over the half term break, and treats them if necessary, we know that the spreading of lice will be dramatically reduced.

Preventing and treating head lice need not be expensive, NHS choices recommend using a 'Bug Buster' fine tooth comb, and conditioner, combing through your child's hair from root to end, section by section. You do not need to use chemical treatments but combing needs to be done regularly to remove all the eggs and live lice. If you are finding it difficult to clear your child's head from lice, speak to your GP or practice nurse.

Children do not need to be absent from school while they have head lice. Follow this link

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> for advice and information or speak to the well-being assistant, Miss Elliott, if you have any concerns.



POW!
Power of Women

Mask Making Workshop with POW!
Monday 2nd March 8.30am-10.30am

JOIN YOUR CHILD TO MAKE YOUR RECYCLABLES INTO A SUPER DUPER MASK

POW! Costume designer Sofie Dodgeson will be leading this drop-in workshop. You will have a mask to take home and to wear to the POW! festival opening.

The POW! festival opening is a free event, open to all, taking place on Friday 6th March 6-7pm, inside and outside Wetherspoons, Ramsgate.

RAPS will be collecting plastic and cardboard recyclables for the workshop - please drop off as much as you can!

To book, please call RAPS on 01843 582487 or speak to reception by 28th Feb.

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

powthanet.com
@powthanet

Power of Women Festival:

I am proud that RAPS is again involved in the Festival of Arts and Culture celebrating International Women's Day. -POW! This year, we are giving all parents and children an opportunity to be involved. **On Monday 2nd March at 8.30-10.30** in our school hall there will be a mask-making workshop for children accompanied by their parents. The session will be run by costume designer Sofie Dodgeson and our own Karen Vost. If you would like to attend, please let our Reception know before the morning of the 28th February. The masks can then be worn at the POW opening festival, Friday 6th March outside Wetherspoons - all are welcome!

If you have any plastic and cardboard recyclables, please drop them off at RAPS on Friday 28th February. Thank you.

Childcare Choices

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



HM Government

Find out more at
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>