



## School Newsletter

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of an exciting new year and the beginning of an incredible new chapter in the history of RAPS. We are now officially on our new site, and although it is still somewhat a work in progress, you can see what an amazing space the children will be enjoying for years to come. The builders have worked incredibly hard all summer and have developed a real bond with the school – they were looking forward with great anticipation to the children coming this week – one commented to me that it made their job worthwhile to see their excitement. As you have seen, there are still key elements to the build which are as yet unfinished. This is due to a hold-up regarding the repositioning of an electrical sub-station which was already on site. This is now thankfully resolved and although McAvoy's are still completing the hall, kitchen, dance studio and drive-in entrances, they are hoping to have cleared the site by Christmas. Hopefully over the next half-term break work shall commence on landscaping the Early Years area, which will look amazing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience in dealing with the repercussions of this build delay – I appreciate that navigating what is largely still a building site is at times tricky, and hope you agree with me that it will be more than worth it in the end.

Because we are still in a period of transition and entrances are still being completed we need you to adhere to our current temporary arrangements regarding pick-up and drop-off procedures.

All pedestrians and parents dropping off for Team Russell at the front of the building are to enter the school building via the main entrance at 08.15 and not before. Children cannot be left unsupervised before 8.15. Those using the drop-off facilities at the back of the school (Teams Spurrier/Rees-Boughton/Beraet and Amin) are to enter through the car park gate at 08.15. Children in Teams Spurrier and Rees-Boughton are to enter the building via their outside classroom doors. Teams Amin and Beraet are to enter via the back foyer entrance. All parents and carers are welcome to accompany their children to their classroom door between 08.15 and 08.30.

### Dates for your diary:

**Term 1 ends** – Friday  
20th October

**Half Term** – Monday 23rd  
October to Friday 27<sup>th</sup>  
October

**INSET DAY** – Monday 30<sup>th</sup>  
October

**Term 2 begins** – Tuesday  
31<sup>st</sup> October

**Term 2 ends** –  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>  
December at 2pm

### Other Inset days:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

11<sup>th</sup> September -Year 3 /4  
Arts curriculum starts-  
School finishes at 4.15

15<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30  
'Open class'sessions.



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Regarding pick-ups – Years 1 & 2 are to be collected from their classrooms’ outside door at 3pm. Parents may use the front and rear entrance/exit from 2.55. Years 3, 4 and 5 will be escorted by their teachers to the playground where they can be collected at 4.15 Mon-Thurs and 3pm on Fridays.

Thank you again for you co-operation.

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### **Staffing:**

The Leadership Team and Governors are extremely pleased with the talented new staff that we have recruited who have joined us this week:

Miss Aitken joins us as a teaching assistant in Reception

Miss Rees-Boughton joins us as a Year 2 teacher

Miss Horrigan joins us as a teaching assistant in Year 3 and Sports Coach

Miss Amin joins us as a Year 4 teacher

Mr Russell joins us as a Year 5 teacher

We also have Mr Williams who will be teaching the Drama and also teaching in Year 4 on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Wendholt and Mrs Trevelyan are our new midday meal supervisors.

I am sure you will join me in saying enormous welcome to all of them. I know they will quickly become fantastic assets to Ramsgate Arts Primary School.

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### **One Childhood, One Chance – Together we make a difference**

At the ‘Open Class session next Friday, parents will have an opportunity to hear about our approach to behaviour management, rewards and other class routines. The foundations of our school are based on mutual respect; we will treat each other as we wish to be treated. Our rules are simple and can be remembered by the whole of our school community and if we all stick to them then we will achieve our ultimate goal – for every child to achieve their full potential.

### **The Ramsgate Arts Primary Golden rules are:**

- Show good learning behaviour
- Show respect
- Try your best
- Stay safe
- Listen

These link closely with our school values which are at the heart of our school and embody the qualities and dispositions that children will find essential in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are also at the core of all learning, thereby allowing children to become the best that they can be in every aspect of their lives now and in the future.

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Our values and the way that we define these as “learning powers” are:

**Aspiration** – We strive to be the best that we can be

**Challenge** - We enjoy learning and always keep trying even when things are difficult.

**Collaboration** – We can play and learn with others so that we all do well

**Diversity** – We understand, accept and celebrate differences.

**Engagement** - We are involved in our learning and want to take part.

**Enquiry** - We want to find out new things.

**Autonomy** – We make our own learning choices.

Our values as learning powers and our golden rules alongside British Values will be revisited regularly in assemblies and lessons and whilst they are not the only things which are important, they are implicit and explicit to daily life at Ramsgate Arts Primary School.

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#### **Also important to our success:**

We truly are dedicated to the journey to achieve “outstanding” status and this can only be achieved through the ongoing support of parents. Therefore I would ask you to help us by ensuring the following things:

**Children will attend school wearing correct school uniform:** It is always lovely to see the children returning in smart new uniforms and shiny new shoes and we ask that correct and appropriate school uniform is worn at all times. This is in keeping with our “look smart, think smartly” ethos – appearances really do make a difference to attitudes!

*A note on hairstyles and earrings:* All children with hair longer than their shoulders must wear their hair tied back. This applies for girls and boys. Small stud earrings only are permitted and these must either be removed or covered with micropore tape (which we provide) during PE and swimming lessons for health and safety reasons.

**Children will attend school as regularly as possible:** A child’s success in their education will be a key determinant in their future success in life and for children to be successful they must be here! Our target is for attendance to be 97% across the school year. 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

## Over 5 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.

**Every child will arrive at school on time:** Classroom doors open at 8:15 – early morning learning begins at this time – and doors close at 8:30. Arriving late can be disruptive and stressful for children, especially if lateness is frequent.

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### Ramsgate Arts Primary School Breakfast and After School Club.

We will be offering a breakfast club and afterschool club from Monday .

Breakfast club will be 2.00 per day, children can be dropped off from 7.30 am, the menu will be fruit juice, toast , cereal and yoghurt available daily.

After school club will be from 3.00pm -5.45pm Monday to Friday, term time only.

Session 1	3.00pm to 4.30pm	£4.00 per session
Session 2	4.15pm to 5.45pm	£5.00 per session
Session 3	3.00pm to 5.45pm	£8.00 per session

Session 1 includes a healthy snack and a drink

Session 2 and 3 include and light tea and drink.

The children are offered a variety of activities but most of all they have fun.

Please see Mary or Barbara in the office for more details.

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I thank you very much for taking the time to read Ramsgate Arts Primary School's first newsletter of the new school year. We will endeavour to communicate everything that happens across this busy term in as many ways as possible.

Please ask if there is anything that you are unsure of. Remember – One Childhood, One chance. We are all working together to ensure that your child has the best possible chance at a fantastic and inspirational learning experience.

Have a lovely weekend

Nick Budge

Head of School