



School Newsletter

Friday 13th November

Newsletter 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and what an interesting couple of weeks we have had as a RAPS community. We had been quite lucky so far across Thanet since the epidemic started several months ago, but as you will be aware, the infection-rate in the local area has been increasing and RAPS is now beginning to see the impact of this. Last weekend, we were informed that we had two children who tested positive in our Year 2 bubble and subsequently that bubble is now isolating at home for 14 days and will be back to school, along with the staff, on **Thursday 19th November**.

We also had a scare in Year 6, where a child has tested positive but we were informed by Public Health England (when we eventually got through to them!) that the Year 6 children could return to school because of the amount of time that had lapsed since that child was in class and had contact with the rest of the children. The Year 6 child is now isolating for a minimum of 10 days, after which they are able to return to school when they are feeling better and have no temperature. We also have two staff members who have tested positive who are in the Year 2 bubble.

I am aware that this may be concerning, but I would rather be transparent with the parents and for the information to come from me rather than possible untruths that may be shared on social media. Our Risk Assessments and protocols are robust; as you are aware, the children and staff are in strict bubbles and from evaluating the Year 2 cases, we have decided to make the bubbles even smaller when the children are indoors. Each bubble, with the exception of Reception, will be reduced from 60 children to a bubble of 30 children (basically their class). There will now be no mixing of children across the bubble for intervention groups or RWI, which there was previously across the bubble of 60. As you can see, we are continually monitoring the situation and are working very closely with Public Health England with every individual case. To clarify, when the school is aware of a positive Covid case, we inform Public Health England, who advise us on how to proceed. If the bubble is to be closed, then the following protocol below is followed:

- A letter is immediately e-mailed via MCAS to all parents of the children who have had direct contact.

Dates for Your Diary

18th November –
Parent Council
AGM

2nd December-
Decorate the
Christmas Tree

16th December –
Christmas Parties
EYFS/KS1

17th December-
Christmas Parties
KS2

18th December –
Christmas Lunch
–Christmas
Jumper Day.

Last Day of Term
–School finishes
at 2.00

NO RAPS club
that afternoon



- A new addition - The rest of the parent community will also be informed to ensure transparency.
- Information will be sent to parents on how to access the remote learning via Microsoft Office and Teams. Passwords have already been sent out and parent-friendly information on how to access Teams can be found by [clicking here](#)
- Day one of the bubble bursting - children will access home learning via the website – this can be found on each class page under ‘Click here for home learning’. In these folders, you will find a variety of learning activities suitable for your child’s age range.
- Day two - an introductory video will be sent explaining expectations of home learning on Teams – following this, every day during isolation, there will be a blended approach to learning which includes a mixture of written instructions and pre-recorded lessons or ‘Live’ lessons across English, Maths and Topic. There will also be an opportunity to meet up via Teams with the teaching-team if your child needs some additional support. Times of live lessons will be shared in the introductory video.
- Work will be able to be completed on-line and uploaded to be viewed by the class teacher. There is no need for printing.
- All Child/Parent/Teacher communication regarding school-work will be via Teams.
- [Click here](#) to see up to date Government Guidance for parents and carers.

As always, I hope that we can continue to work together to navigate our way through this current situation. Please continue to follow our simple expectations of wearing a mask on site, keeping our distance and washing hands to ensure that our children can continue to learn at school rather than at home.

Keep safe... kindest regards,



RAPS Parent Council News

Hi, another lockdown! But at least the kids are at school this time! Thank you for all your support with the Hair Horror Day and the Scary Scarecrow Trail last term. We hope you and your children enjoyed the activities. The hairstyles on the last day of term were amazing! Between both events we raised around £300!!

We have our AGM (Annual General Meeting) on Wednesday the 18th November at 6pm. You will find details at the bottom of this Newsletter. Please join us!

Personalised Christmas Cards – your children have now completed their designs and we will send out more information in the next few weeks on how to place your orders.

We are planning a couple of activities for the run up to Christmas and we will reach out soon with further details.

The Parent Council

If you want to contact us then please check our Facebook group (RAPS Parent Council) or email us directly on rapstfa@gmail.com.

Ramsgate Arts Primary School in the News

Creative Copse Play for RAPS

A woodland world of discovery awaited young explorers from Ramsgate Arts Primary at the Newington Copse outdoor nature play centre. Girls and boys from the Year 1 classes were captivated by the diverse range of activities delivered by professional artists at the wooded area.

Workshops include making leafy hairstyles with leaves, petals and found objects; creating bug hotels for tiny creatures using mud, straw and bamboo; making seed bombs; making their own 3D model of the copse; exploring the woods discovering wildlife and pond-dipping.

The young visitors from RAPS were enthralled and excited. Loki said: "I really liked the red bug, it's called a centipede," while Maisie added: "I liked making a bug hotel." Alfie explained: "I touched a worm, it felt squishy."

Teacher Jess Barnes said: "The children were so engaged in the range of activities on offer. They particularly enjoyed going on a bug hunt around the site; finding a toad and lots of centipedes. They were amazed by how many legs a centipede has.



They learnt about the different materials they could use to make a bug hotel, thinking very carefully about what each insect needs. The children worked collaboratively to start building a 3D model of the trees within the copse using a range of materials. It was a great opportunity for the children to be in nature, exploring the surroundings and being creative in ways they maybe haven't experienced before. They returned to school inspired by the activities and have been using their child-initiated time to try out some of the new skills they have learnt. They are so excited about their trip to the copse."

Artist and creative producer Nova Marshall from Copse Play said: "The copse is an under-used resource that lies in the community of Newington. It is a hidden gem.

"The idea of Copse Play came about from various conversations that I had with members of the community – families, discussions with teachers, children and young people that attend the local youth club – who all talk so animatedly about the copse, and how much they enjoy the space.

Marry this with the evidence that children are getting fewer opportunities to interact with nature, the idea of Copse Play was born. The project allows the children to interact with nature in fun and inspiring ways, work with professional artists whilst being immersed in nature creating artwork inspired by what surrounds them. The benefits of spending time outdoors improves physical, mental and social well-being and the opportunity to develop an interest in and understanding of nature.”

RAPS Head of School Nick Budge is a firm believer of outdoor learning. He said: “Whenever possible we offer our children the chance to visit new learning environments like the copse and forest schools. It is another dimension for their education and shows them from an early age that learning is all around them, not just in a classroom. Initiatives like this enhances teamwork, communication skills, problem-solving and decision-making, and is beneficial for our children’s wellbeing. We are developing our own outside learning spaces at RAPS with specially designated areas. The project is ongoing and is supported by our Parent Council. The next phase is a kitchen garden.”

Hair Horror Happiness at RAPS

A horror hair day saw children and staff transformed by all manner of spooky styles at Ramsgate Arts Primary School. The freaky Friday last day of term invited pupils to ‘hair’em, scare’em’ in a sponsored fund-raiser led by the Parent Council. Classrooms and corridors saw the usually smart hair of boys and girls of all ages replaced by a whole range of weird, wild and wonderful creations. The frightful hair force included cobwebs, spiders, vampire bats, outrageous Mohican styles, and some sprouting twigs.



Head of School Nick Budge said: “It was hair-raising alright. There was some creepy coiffure on display all day and our pupils and staff really worked hard on their horror hair show.

“The imagination, ingenuity and creativity was fantastic and the Parent Council idea for a pre-Halloween event to mark the end of a challenging term for our pupils was a super scary success. Since school returned in early September everyone associated with RAPS has worked together to ensure that our learning continued to remain innovative, challenging and fun. Events like this underpin our aims and objectives perfectly.”

The ghoulish event raised more than £200 to support the Parent Council’s latest project which is the creation of a kitchen garden in the school grounds.

