



## School Newsletter

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with your family and friends. The lovely weather made a dramatic difference, giving Ramsgate an almost Mediterranean feel!

If I think back to this time last year, my overwhelming concern was not only the wellbeing of children and staff, but also whether or not the building was going to be finished on time. As many of you are aware, we opened without a hall, lunch facilities and dance studio, with classrooms barely finished. How different our situation is this year - teachers have been able to come into their classrooms without worrying about things like furniture or whether the ICT system will work. Although the fabric of the building is completed, there are still things that we want to do to enhance the learning environment further, especially regarding the outside of the building, where we plan to hopefully landscape the external areas for our Years 1 and 2, as well as develop the outside playground space further.

I am very lucky to be leading such a strong team, and our staffing has gone from strength to strength with some fantastic new additions. Mrs Beech joined us mid-way through last year and has added much-needed support to the leadership team. Miss Barnes, Miss Taft and Miss Russo have joined our Reception team, and Mrs Smith is now part of our Year 2 team. In Key Stage 2, Mrs Fox and Miss Stocker are in Year 4 and Miss Dannell is in Year 5. Finally, Mr Holliday and Mr Stevens are in Year 6. Their photos will soon be up on the staff gallery in the foyer.

We are also building on our Partnerships with the local Arts community. The whole school are again lucky enough to have the opportunity to go to the Turner next week to visit the 'Animals and Us' exhibition and work with their team, who will also be running workshops at RAPS. In addition to this, our Year 3 children are working with the Turner, funded by the Arts Council, on a three year Pioneering Places Project. Exciting projects are to be planned with Dreamland and also the school will be involved in the Take One Picture Project at the National Gallery. Regency Performing Arts continue to enhance the Arts curriculum offering five scholarships to our children as well as running an Arts Festival for the children later this term. The Pie Factory have already been in and delivered an assembly to our children about music and working opportunities within the music industry.

As you can tell, we already have a lot planned. We will endeavour to keep you posted about everything that is happening in school through our newsletters, class blogs, website, texts and e-mails.

Enjoy the term ahead! Nick Budge

### Dates for your diary:

10<sup>th</sup> September – New Reception start.

12<sup>th</sup> September - Years 1 & 2 visit the Turner

Parent Council meeting at 3.15 – All Welcome

13<sup>th</sup> September - Years 3 & 4 visit the Turner

14<sup>th</sup> September - Year 5 & 6

21<sup>st</sup> September – Behaviour Badge Day

24<sup>th</sup> September - Arts Festival

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September – Year 3 Pioneering Places Project

26<sup>th</sup> September at 8.30 - Parent Coffee Morning

27<sup>th</sup> September - School Disco

12<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Performance

Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> October – Parent Consultation week

19<sup>th</sup> October – End of Term

29<sup>th</sup> October - INSET Day

30<sup>th</sup> October – First Day of Term

31<sup>st</sup> October - 8.30 - Parent Coffee Morning

---

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

At the ‘Open Class’ session today, parents had the 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 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. 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.

---

### **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 to school wearing our smart uniform and shiny new shoes and we ask that correct and appropriate school uniform is worn at all times throughout the year. This is in keeping with our “look smart, think smart” 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 to 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

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.

**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.

---

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

We will offer breakfast club and afterschool club from Monday.

Breakfast club is £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 Miss Tranham or Mary or Lorna in the office for more details.

---

## Visits to the Turner

Next week each class will visit the Turner Contemporary to view the 'Animals and Us' exhibition, where they will also have an opportunity to see the work of a RAPS young artist, Ruby Hodder. Ruby's piece is currently being displayed in the gallery.

Having been inspired by both the artwork they have viewed, as well as the workshops run by the Turner staff at school, each class will produce its own small exhibition throughout the week along our upstairs corridor. This can be viewed on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September at the end of our Arts Festival.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> –Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will have workshops at school with Turner staff.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Years 5 and 6 will have workshops at school with Turner Staff.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Years 1 and 2 visit the gallery

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>- Years 3 and 4 visit the gallery

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> –Years 5 and 6 gallery visit.

---