

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather has been variable lately but we are keen that children get fresh air and to play outside every day, so please make sure that they bring a warm coat, hat and gloves to school on days that are colder. These should be clearly marked with your child's name in case they get lost. Please remember that we expect children to wear black shoes whilst at school and not boots for safety reasons, as well as to make sure that they are comfortable when in class. PE at this time of the year mostly takes place indoors but we still expect all children to have a white t-shirt and plain green or black shorts, or black jogging bottoms for PE lessons.

At the very beginning of each school day, children get straight to learning tasks whilst the teacher calls the register. These often involve rehearsing key skills such as spellings, handwriting or times tables. This is also the time that many children read one to one with an adult or receive additional help. It is very important that children are on time for these sessions by being in the playground ready to line up at 8:55am. Please help children to be ready and arrive in good time for the start of the day. Setting a morning routine, preparing the night before and being consistent in expectations support children in the important skills of responsibility and time keeping necessary throughout life.

We aim to change home reading books at least once a week (more often for younger children), and returning home readers to school will help us to do this. We make sure that children have a wide selection of books to choose from but the breadth of books reduces when these are left at home. Please could you check for any school home reading books that may have slipped behind the sofa or under the bed, pop them in your child's book bag or give them directly to any member of staff during morning drop off.

Children are expected to know all of their multiplication tables by the end of Year 4 and they benefit hugely from any help that you can give from home. We have given all children in Years 3 to 6 a password to access an online programme to help them learn their times tables called Times Table Rock Stars. Please encourage them to use this, as well as practise with you when you see the opportunity.

Thank you for all of your support.

Mr Stephen O'Brien - Headteacher | Ms Rachel Davie - Executive Headteacher

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Reminders

School Shoes

Smart black shoes for school please. School uniform items can be purchased from Mapac. To order, please scan the QR code on the next page or visit our school website for the link.



Lost Property & School Uniform

If you have misplaced a jumper, lunchbox or other item, please call into the school office who will show you to the lost property cupboard.



Exploring Textures

Last week in EYFS, children used multiple techniques to create a barn for their animals. First, they used brown strips to make the shape of their barn. Then they practised using their fine motor skills to cut out the animals to place inside their barn. They enjoyed exploring the texture and smell of the hay while working hard to produce their final outcomes.



National Art Gallery Visit

Last week, Year 2 visited the National Art Gallery. The children marvelled at paintings by Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse. They also discussed techniques used to create the artists' wonderful paintings while identifying how they all link to this term's art unit. They will soon be creating their own artwork in the same style.



MS Excel Spreadsheets

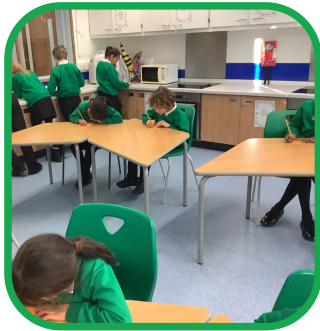
In ICT, children in Year 5 have been learning how to identify the elements of a spreadsheet using Microsoft Excel. In their most recent lesson, they had to complete 'The Wizard Challenge', where they had to find specific cells on a spreadsheet and then input the correct data into those specific cells in order for them to turn green.





Striving for Platinum

Our Art Ambassadors recently discussed the strengths we have in Art across the school that will equip us towards gaining our Arts Quality Mark at Orchard. The children will be working together as a team to drive the Art curriculum, and demonstrate the amazing skills our children display; not only in school but outside as well. As we were awarded Gold in 2019, we will now be striving for platinum!



Spanish Language Learning

Year 6 and Year 1 Language Captains met to practise sharing the 'phrase of the week' in Spanish. Last week's phrase was 'recoge tu mesa' (tidy your table). Year 6 pupils helped Year 1 pupils to pronounce the words and model the actions. Language Captains will share the phrase with teachers and peers. The pupils also practised the Spanish calendar and each received their Language Captain badge.



Key Dates

SPRING TERM 1 (2024)

Children's Mental Health Week

Week beginning Monday 5th February 2024

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February 2024

Year 6 Chestnut Class Assembly - New Hall

Thursday 8th February 2024 at 11:00am

Year 4 Hazel Class Assembly - New Hall

Thursday 8th February 2024 at 9:05am

Year 2 Rowan Class Assembly - New Hall

Thursday 8th February 2024 at 10:30am

Last Day of Term (School finishes at 3:30pm)

Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term Holiday

Monday 12th February 2024 - Friday 16th February 2024

Children Return to School

Monday 19th February 2024 at 8:55am

Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexible Space at 9:15am on a Friday. These allow you to meet with other parents as well as to learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home. EYFS Workshops are held separately. Please see the dates below.

Date	Focus
Friday 9th February	<u>Online safety</u> : How can I support my child to use digital technologies responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively? (Safer Internet Day Parent Workshop)

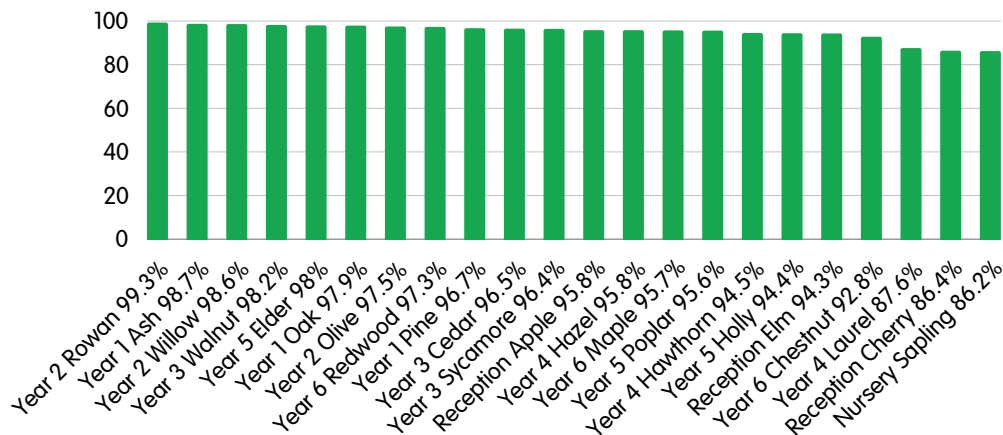
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 95.2%.

Well done to Year 2 Rowan class, last week's winners with 99.3% attendance.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



Bike Bus

"I like cycling on the bike bus because it gives me strong legs and helps me be a better footballer!"
Cycling Champion.



Term Start and End

The first half of spring term ends at 3:30pm on Friday 9th February 2024, and the second half of the term starts at 8:55am on Monday 19th February 2024. Please ensure your child returns to school on time and in full uniform ready to learn. You can scan the QR code to order school uniform.



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