## Head's Message

## Rainow Round-Up

23rd July-10th September 2021



I would like to begin by wishing you all a slightly belated warm welcome back to school and a special welcome to all the new children and parents who have joined us this year. We hope that you will take an active part in the school community and that you enjoy your time with us.

The Round-Up and email are our main forms of home-school communication (no mobile signals up in th'hills!), and I publish the Round-Up every fortnight, on a

Friday. Most families receive a copy via email, but we can provide a paper copy if you so wish. The Round-Up should provide you with everything you need to know about school life, and the 'A Look Ahead...' and 'Diary Dates' on the last page will give you plenty of notice for upcoming events. Teachers will also send out class-specific information via their home learning platforms: Tapestry, Class Do-Jo, or See-Saw. With so many messages at the start of the year, today is a longer issue.

Being back at school this week has reminded me of what an incredibly happy place our school is to teach and learn in. At the time of writing, I have just returned to my office after the whole school relaxed on the grass and watched the Tour of Britain cyclists whizz past Rainow Church. The children were filled with excitement and joy. One little girl in Y3 exclaimed, 'I feel so happy!' and when asked why, she replied, 'Because it was so loud, and we were all together!' This sentiment, I am sure, is shared by us all, and demonstrates just how much this type of experience has been missed over the past 18 months. We hope it is just the first of many magical memories we can make together throughout the year. I, for one, am looking forward to it!

#### **New Reception Class 2021**

We welcomed 28 new children into school last Thursday and they have settled into Rainow life wonderfully well. So far they have spent the mornings with us and are getting used to school routines. Next week they will stay for lunch. We are pleased to report that there have been very few tears (at least not from the children) and they seem to be enjoying every new experience and opportunity—a brilliant bunch! Reception parents may notice or hear about the older children helping the Reception class. This is part of our 'Buddy' programme. The Reception children will shortly be assigned a Year 6 'Buddy' to give them a helping hand as they start their Rainow learning journey!



## Teaching and Learning

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Rowan the Raven



Bramble the Badger



Fern the



Speedwell the Squirrel



Oakley the Owl



The Busy Bees

#### **Rainow School Learning Values**

CLICK ON ANY BADGE TO LEARN MORE

For parents new to school, and a reminder for other families, we would like to share with you our school Learning Values. We pride ourselves at Rainow in making sure children develop a lifelong love of learning. We believe that equipping children with the skills and knowledge of *how* to learn is equally, if not more, important than what to learn.

Our friendly woodland creatures have been designed to help encourage and remind us all about desirable and effective learning behaviours.

Children might be awarded a special badge to take home from time to time to recognise improvements against a Learning Value. It is our long term goal that children no longer need an extrinsic reward such as a badge, certificate or reward, but we realise that rewards can work to motivate children in the short term. We also believe that our badge system works to help keep our Learning Values at the forefront of all of our minds. We will be working hard to teach children about each value, whilst at the same time educating them about how the reward should really come from the process of learning, or the sense of achievement itself, rather than the prize at the end.

#### **Our School Motto and Vision**

#### Motto:

Caring, Learning, Achieving

#### Vision:

Growing a community of life-long learners
who will care for each other,
who will work hard to learn new things every day,
and who will achieve more than they thought possible.

#### **Teaching Arrangements**

The teaching arrangements for this year are as follows:

Reception \*Mrs Daley (Mon, Tue and Fri) / Mrs Copeland (Wed, Thur)

Year 1 Miss Townley Year 2 Mr Gratton

Year 3 Mrs Copeland (Mon, Tues) / Mrs Hill (Wed, Thur, Fri)

Year 4 Miss Crowther Year 5 Mr Trueman Year 6 Mrs Eddie

\*Mrs Daley is the Deputy Head and Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo), and will fulfil these duties on Wednesday and Thursday.



# Awards and Celebrations

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The main focus since our return has been to remind the children what makes a successful learner. The teachers pick at least two children per week to receive a badge. From next week, we will also choose children to receive a Courtesy Award (see page 5) and another certificate

#### Well done to all of our recipients!

	Badge	Badge
Rec	Coming soon	Coming soon
Year 1	Hugo (Bees)	Coralie (Raven)
Year 2	Hetty (Raven) Grace (Raven)	Martha (Raven)
Year 3	Scarlett (Raven)	Edha (Raven)
Year 4	Holly (Raven)	Archie (Squirrel)
Year 5	Riley (Squirrel)	Ivy (Badger)
Year 6	Fraser (Raven)	Ben H (Raven)

#### **Y6 SPECIAL AWARD**

Max: Hardworking, multi-talented, funny, kind and caring.

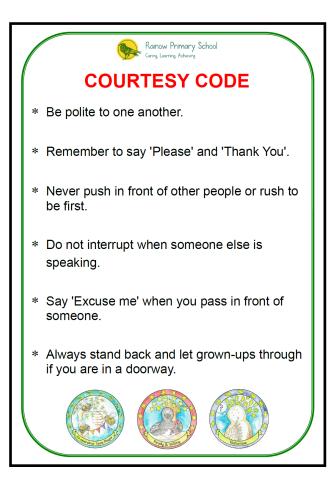




#### Be Friendly, Polite and Well-behaved

We believe that effective education is built on excellent relationships and a relevant, interesting and exciting curriculum. We develop mutually respectful relationships with the children, and these relationships are strengthened by the use of consistent and simple school rules and our courtesy code.





### Thank you

Speaking of being polite, I know that the teachers and other staff greatly appreciated their generous end of year gifts at the end of last term. On behalf of the staff, many thanks.

### **Twitter**

We launched our Twitter feed a few years ago and this can be found on our school website home page, or by searching for @RainowSchool on Twitter itself.

We currently have 452 followers (371 at the same time last year!) and it is a great way to look at lots of extra pictures and keep up-to-date with school activities.

Last year, we managed to take our overall 'tweets' to over 1500 and we plan on updating our feed on a regular basis.

## **Reminders**

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#### **Attendance**

First, a polite reminder about school attendance. We are not permitted to grant any holidays in term time. Apart from illness, isolation or to attend medical / dental appointments, absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Headteacher. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in a fixed penalty fine. Our full attendance policy can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

#### Uniform

The children have looked super smart this week in their uniforms. We always greatly appreciate the vast majority of parents who support our well-established school dress code. Please label *all* clothing and lunch boxes; taking a few minutes to do this can save hours of hunting and upset! There is a lost property box which is regularly sorted and worth a visit if you do lose something. Children should not wear jewellery, nail varnish or make-up for school.

Your child is allowed to wear non-uniform on their birthday! (if there birthday is in a school holiday, they can choose a day just before or after the school break).

#### **Parent-Teacher Meetings**

Please speak, or send a message, to the class teacher in the first instance if you have *any* queries so that we can endeavour to rectify any issues. Teachers are only available before and after school for the passing of <u>brief</u> messages or questions. If you require a longer meeting, please contact them to arrange a mutually convenient time. There will be more formal Parents' Evenings in October and February (see Diary Dates). Can we remind anyone visiting the inside of school to test negatively on at least a LFT beforehand, and to wear a facemask until further notice (for this half-term at least).

#### Medical

A number of children keep asthma inhalers in school for occasional use and parents have completed a medical form with all relevant details. This form is held in the office. We also have pupils who carry their own inhalers for school trips etc. and we do not always have prior knowledge of this. If your child has *any* medical condition that we are not aware of, please could you let us know as soon as possible.

#### **Nut-Free School**

Due to the number of children with severe allergies, we endeavour to be a nut free school. Please ensure that packed lunches and snacks are nut-free.

### **Drop-offs and Pick-Ups**

Please can I remind parents to carefully supervise their children if they are using the playground before or after school and **do not allow them to play on the banks.** The school is not liable for any accidents that may occur whilst parents/carers are waiting on the playground with children and it is confusing for children if rules set in school time are broken out of school.

#### Parking / Traffic

Unfortunately, we have already received several complaints about dangerous and inconsiderate parking at drop-off and /or pick-up time.

Please adhere to the following rules:

- Never park on the yellow zig-zig lines (this includes waiting and 'quickly' dropping off)
- Never obstruct junctions.
- Never block residents' driveways.
- Make sure pedestrians can safely use the pavements.
- Adhere to the speed limit at all times.

There is plenty of space to park further around Round Meadow and onto Miller's Meadow. Setting off a few minutes earlier and / or walking a few metres further, are small prices to pay to ensure the safety of our children and a happier community.

We will be looking at improving this aspect of school life as far as possible during the year, and we would greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

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#### **Friends of Rainow School**

With school and life returning (more or less) to normal, so too is FRS – hopefully starting with our first face-to-face FRS AGM in nearly 2 years (some restrictions may still apply).



FRS AGM - 7pm, Thursday 23rd Sept, The School Hall

Everyone welcome, no commitment required just a great opportunity to have your say on matters such as how FRS funds are spent, what activities we hold etc. As a new parent, it's a brilliant way to integrate yourself into school life and play an active role in enriching your child's school journey!

At the AGM there will be the opportunity to put yourself forward for the key roles of chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer, if you are interested in any of these roles please feel free to contact Chloe on 07817611457 to discuss.

Autumn Walk - Sunday 3rd October

In a return to normal fundraising activities, please save the date for our Autumn Walk. Full details will follow soon.

#### Reading challenge

Wrapping up activities from last year – our Reading Challenge raised £677! £270 has been used to purchase a selection of diverse books with an accompanying resource pack as requested by school. The remaining funds will be used to purchase more books. Class reps will be in touch, asking for suggestions from parents. Thank you to all the children who took part and all the parents / grandparents / friends who donated – the 'Get Caught Reading' pictures were so fun and creative.

Finally, there have been lots of **School Lottery** winners over the summer. You've got to be in it to win it, so please sign up at <a href="https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk">www.yourschoollottery.co.uk</a> and search for Rainow Primary School.

#### Breakfast and After School Club

We are delighted to be able to offer such excellent before and after school care in our clubs. Information, including how to book can be found here:

http://www.rainowpri.cheshire.sch.uk/page/after-schoolbreakfast-clubs/1121



# A look ahead...

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#### Curriculum

We aim to plan an exciting and stimulating curriculum with much of the work linking together in topics or themes. This makes the learning more meaningful for your children as they can make links between subjects. We will provide a wide range of interesting teaching and learning opportunities to interest and enthuse your children, including class trips. Apart from Reception Class, year groups work in pairs and share aspects of study such as class trips.

#### **Autumn Topics**

Reception: Mr Men (followed by Percy

the Park Keeper)

Year 1 & 2: Paddington

Year 3 & 4: The Inside Story

Year 5 & 6: Me, Myself and I

Your class teacher will send more detailed information about curriculum coverage home and keep you updated throughout the year. This information will also be available on the school website by clicking the following link and selecting your child's class. www.rainowpri.cheshire.sch.uk/classes

#### **Woodland Well-Being Week**

We always try to start the year with a week dedicated to enjoying our stunning outdoor areas, and promoting good mental health and general well-being. Our Woodland Well-Being week is planned for wk. commencing Mon 20th September and we will send you further information next week about the exciting activities we have planned.

#### **Assemblies**

There are various assemblies for the children throughout the week, some just for your child's class and others for the infants or juniors. On Mondays, the teachers and children come together to celebrate children's progress and achievements from the previous week. Friday assemblies are a chance to share awards or achievements that children may have received out of school, so feel free to send in certificates, awards, pictures etc.

#### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

We are excited about the return of our wide range of extra-curricular clubs, some of which rely on staff goodwill and others that will incur a charge to parents. You should already have received a copy of the <u>letters</u> with permission slips, which must be completed before your child can attend any club. We will endeavour to provide a wide range of clubs, not just sports, to appeal to as many children and ageranges as possible. This will be reviewed half-termly. Please note that Reception children will have access to clubs later on in the school year. **CLUBS START NEXT WEEK, MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER.** 

#### **Free School Meals**

All pupils in the Reception Class and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) are eligible to have a free school meal every day (known as Universal Infant Free School Meals). If you need to find out any more information about our school meals provision and food quality, Mrs Gidion (Michelle) in the school kitchen would be happy to discuss this with you.

In previous years, eligibility for Income Related Free School Meals has also provided a further allocation of money to the school called the Pupil Premium to support your child. Parents who would qualify for this would be likely to be in receipt of benefits. If you think that you may be eligible for this please telephone 0300 123 5012.

If you do claim this, we may be able to help you with the cost of trips and school visits as the school will receive a sum of money to support your child, so it is very important that you claim if possible, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. If you do not claim, your child will miss out on vital funding. All contact in this matter will be strictly confidential and will not affect any other benefits that you may

be receiving.

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## **Diary Dates**

A calendar for the year ahead is given below and is also available on the school website. Further details will be provided closer to the events but this should provide a useful overview of the year ahead. Please would you add these dates to your calendar.

September 2021				
Mon 13th	Extra-Curricular Clubs commence	Thur 3rd	World Book Day	
	Reception children stay for lunch all week	Mon 7th	STEM Week Commences	
Mon 20th	Reception Class start full-time	Fri 18th	Red Nose Day Charity Fundraiser	
	Woodland Well-Being Week Starts	April		
Tue 21st	Reception Class Curriculum Evening,	Fri 1st	School closes for EASTER	
	6.30pm—7.30pm (Zoom)	Tue 19th	School reopens for the children	
Thur 23rd	FRS AGM			
October		May		
Mon 4th	Parents' Evening Week	Mon 2nd	May Bank Holiday, school closed for 1	
Thur 21st	School closes for staff INSET / Half-term		day	
Fri 22nd	INSET day for teachers (no pupils)	Mon 9th	Key stage 2 SATs week commences for	
November			year 6 pupils	
Mon 1st	School reopens for the children	Thur 26th	School Closes for children	
Fri 12th	Children In Need (tbc.)	Fri 27th	School Closed, staff INSET day	
Mon 15th	Anti-Bullying Week commences	June		
December		Mon 6th	School Closed to mark Queen's Platinum	
Sat 4th	Xmas Fair (tbc.)		<u>Jubilee</u>	
Thur 16th	Children's Christmas Lunch and Parties	Tue 7th	School reopens for children	
	(tbc.)	July		
Fri 17th	Christmas Service (tbc),	Thur 21st	School closes for summer break	
	School closes for Christmas.	Fri 22nd	School Closed, staff INSET day	
January 2022				
Tues 4th School Closed, staff INSET day		THERE ARE STILL VARIOUS KEY DATES YET TO BE		
Wed 5th	School reopens for the children.	CONFIRMED SUCH AS OUR XMAS FAIR, XMAS PLAYS		
February			etc.	
Fri 18th	School closes for half-term WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED WITH ALL ADDITION			
Mon 28th			ANY CHANGES AS THE TERM PROGRESSES.	
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