

## Rainow Chess Club Newsletter 2024–2025

We wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on some highlights from a great year of chess at Rainow.

### Monday Chess club

We have had excellent attendance at our main Monday chess club, with up to 20 dedicated players from across the junior classes. All the children have practiced hard to develop their chess skills, through friendly games, puzzles, and tournaments.

We played our summer tournament over eight weeks, with Fraser and Martha emerging as top boy and girl respectively, and some of our younger players such as William and Fred providing stiff competition. Regardless of results, all of the children showed great determination and resilience, with many of the less experienced players demonstrating real progress.

We are sorry to say goodbye to our year 6s (Elanor, Fraser, George, Josh and Lily), who have all developed into great chess players over the last year or two. We hope that they will continue their chess at Tytherington next year.

### School chess team

Every child who has attended chess club regularly this year has had the opportunity to represent our school in external matches and tournaments.

We've taken part in friendly matches against **Marlborough Primary School** and the **Tytherington High School Year 7s**, giving our players a chance to test their skills in a friendly but competitive environment.



*Rainow chess squad at Marlborough primary school*

Ten children took part in the **ECF Primary Chess Challenge at King's School**, where a brilliant team performance earned our 'A' team third place on the day, just behind King's and Altrincham Boys School.

A squad of six U9s and six U11s took part in the **National Primary School Chess Championship**, travelling to Bolton Boys' School for the regional qualifying round. Both of our teams qualified for the national semi-final in Nottingham, with the U9s taking second place in their qualifier. The semi-final was a very high standard with our children tested against the strongest chess schools from across the north of England, and they performed admirably, picking up wins against some formidable independent school teams.

### **Individual tournaments**

A number of our children have taken part in individual tournaments this year.

In particular, seven children took part in the first round (the "Megafinal") of the national Delancey UK Chess Challenge. All seven children performed strongly and four qualified for the second stage of the tournament (the "Gigafinal"). Well done to Fraser, Lily, Martha and Arlo for qualifying (and to Elodie, Fred and Rowan who only missed out on qualification by the narrowest of margins).

Five children took part in the inaugural Macclesfield Primary Schools chess tournament, hosted at Tytherington School. Again, all performed very strongly - well done to Elodie, William, Archie, Leo and Lily.

### **Year 2 Beginner Chess**

Alongside our main club, a group of enthusiastic Year 2 pupils took their first steps in chess this term with weekly beginner sessions to learn some of the basics. I hope that some of them will graduate to chess club in the future!



*Year 2 chess players*

## **Thank you**

Thank you to all those who have supported chess at Rainow this year. In particular:

- The chess club parents, many of whom have helped with transport and supervision, particularly for the bigger tournaments.
- Mark and Phil, who have been regular volunteers at Monday Chess Club, and Michael who has been helping out with some extra Friday morning tournament preparation sessions. Special thanks to Mark who is likely to step back from chess club next year, having been instrumental in getting the club up and running and a dedicated volunteer for two years.

If any other parents would like to get involved with chess club next year then please do get in touch with Alex (07734 068551) - it is good fun and you do not need to be an expert chess player!