



January 2023

Rowsley C of E Primary School

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

[Happy 2023!](#)

The staff at Rowsley CofE would like to start by wishing you a prosperous new year and all the best for 2023. This half term is quite a quiet one, but please keep an eye on the boards in the playground for up to date information. Dates are also shown on our school website. If you do not receive ParentHub messages, please sign up as messages are sent regularly to keep you up to date. Mrs Middlebrook will be able to help should you need support.

[Strike Action](#)

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU), one of the country's teaching unions, has announced dates for strike action. The dates for the planned strikes are:

- Wednesday 1 February
- Wednesday 1 March
- Wednesday 15 March
- Thursday 16 March

The strike is happening as part of a national dispute between the unions and the government and has the potential to affect all schools. Please rest assured that any plans we need to make will prioritise our students' wellbeing and education.

[Packed Lunches](#)

We understand that making a packed lunch every day can be a bit of a bind especially if you have picky eaters, but it is really important for your child's development and concentration that their packed lunch consists of healthy items and only one small treat. Please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/> for some healthy ideas.

School meals offer a healthy choice and they are served by our wonderful dinner lady, Claire. Claire quickly learns the likes and dislikes of the children and always encourages the children to try new foods. Service with a smile!

A copy of the school dinner menu can be obtained from the school office. If you would like your child to try school dinners or think you may qualify for free school meals, please do contact us.

[Community Café and Warm Hub](#)

Every Tuesday until the end of March, Rowsley Village Hall will be open from just after 9am drop off for free tea/coffee and cake. There will also be a 'Warm Hub' office space with free wi-fi for those who are working remotely. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, meet up with friends and have a chat. There are also some games and toys for younger children, who are very welcome to attend with their parents/carers.

Poetry Post

We are really proud of our local connections and the wonderful community that we live in, and to keep in touch with everyone we are starting a scheme called 'Poetry Post.' This will start with juniors and if it is successful, we will extend it to infants too. The children will either write their own poem or write out their favourite poem which they will then decorate and deliver to people in our local community. A copy of your child's poem will also be sent home for you to share with your child. Will you be lucky enough to receive a poem through your door?

The Y5/6 class will also be sharing their poems at the Community Café and Warm Hub event held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 31st January at 9.30. If you are free, I am sure they would love to see you there.

What goes on in school?

The Obamas

I will be holding a Year 6 SATs evening this term, this will give parents/carers the opportunity to look at some SATs papers, discuss how they are handled within our school and how you can help at home. I will also be able to address any queries that you may have. This will be for parents only, but your child can wait in the library whilst the meeting is on. It will not be a very long meeting. I do hope that you can attend.

This half term we are studying the Shang Dynasty (Ancient China), this is a truly fascinating topic and one of my favourites to teach. Our Art topic is sculpture and we will be using clay to make dragon eyes. We always start our art projects by creating a mood board. Below are some examples of the children's work. I can't wait to see their completed clay eyes!



The Simone Biles Class

This half term, the Y3/4 children are starting a big unit on fractions in Maths. Mrs Hodgson kick-started the unit with lots of practical fraction activities such as creating their own fraction strips, sharing money to create different fractions and, the best bit, cutting up and eating pizza. Yum.

In English and Geography, they are learning about mountains, in particular Mt Everest. They will be completing some online research about Mount Everest and the first expedition up it. In English, they will be writing biographies on Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.



The Greta Thunberg Class

Please welcome Mr Burton into the class. Mr Burton will be with us until mid-March. He is a trainee teacher completing a short placement with Y1 and Y2. He will be working closely with Miss Lindley and myself. I know that a few will have met him already at the gate.

Reception have been learning their CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant i.e. cat) and CCVC (consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant i.e. flat) words. We made a tuff tray where the children chose a word that they wanted to build, they found the correct letter biscuits and they ate their word when they had put the word together! To find out more about CVC and CCVC words, please head over to the Early Years page on our school website where you will find an information PowerPoint.



Junior Violin Performance

Every Friday, the junior children have been learning the violin through Wider Ops, a Derbyshire initiative set up to help all children learn to play a musical instrument as part of a whole-class instrumental programme - this is supported by teachers from our local Music Education Hub.

At the end of every unit the children are able to put on a performance to show parents what they have been learning. We recently sent out a ParentHub telling you that the date of the performance was Friday 10th Feb, however due to circumstances beyond our control this will now take place on Wednesday 8th Feb at 2.30pm in Rowsley Village Hall. All junior parents are welcome to attend.

Due to the change of date, the children will have their Green Zone session on Friday 10th Feb instead.

Internet Safety

At the start of every computing unit, we talk to the children about keeping safe on the Internet.

We teach the children to never reveal personal information, such as address, phone number, or school name or location. Use only a screen name and don't share passwords (other than with parents) and to never agree to get together in person with anyone they met online without parental approval and/or supervision.

You can find further information on our school website or on <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Mrs Wyer recently held a Collective Worship on Internet Safety and showed the children how to play Interland, an adventure-packed online game that puts the key lessons of digital citizenship and safety into hands-on practice, and makes learning about digital safety and citizenship interactive and fun. A link to the game was sent on ParentHub.

Safeguarding in School

We have three designated safeguarding leads in school – me, Mrs Wyer and Mrs Hodgson and our Safeguarding Governor is Rachel Allen-Ashcroft. The safeguarding of your child is paramount at Rowsley CofE and we hold regular safeguarding assemblies to the whole school.

You and your child can read about our safeguarding procedures on our school website. The information page for adults, which can be found in 'Key Information', also has web-links and our school policies. The children's page,

which can be found through the 'Children' signpost, has information for your child and also has a link to our child-friendly complaints procedure.

[BERT Award](#)

We are pleased to announce that we are going to be working towards the BERT Award - Building Effective Relationships Together – this is the new Derbyshire Relationships and Sex Education Award Programme. Through the BERT Award we aim to:

- Develop our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in school
- Further develop positive relationships in the school community
- Reduce stigma around asking for help and support on sensitive issues, such as puberty, sexual health, online relationships and consent

Why is this area of education important?

Working towards the BERT award will see us supporting our young people's safety, mental health and wellbeing, and give them the ability to take part in lessons and achieve well in their learning. Research shows that quality relationships and sex education (RSE) helps to keep children and young people safe and reduces risky behaviour.

[Musician of the Month](#)

January's Musician of the month is the well-known Freddie Mercury. This month the children will learn about Freddie Mercury's solo work as well as his work with Queen. Did you know that Freddie Mercury was born in Tanzania and that his birth name was Farrokh Bulsara?

February's musician of the month is the less well-known Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was a Qawwali singer, he worked with Peter Gabriel and created music for several Bollywood and Pakistani films.

[Diary Dates for the new half term](#)

Dates are subject to change, and more may be added, however we wanted to give as much advance notice as possible.

Date	Event	Details
January		
Monday 9 th Jan	INSET Day	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 10 th Jan	First day back	School re-opens to all pupils
Friday 13 th Jan	Swimming resumes	
February		
Wednesday 8 th February	Junior Violin Performance	Parents welcome, please come and watch your child from 2.30pm at Rowsley Village Hall
Friday 17 th February	No swimming	
Friday 17 th February	Last Day of School	School closes for a week

[I am aware that some of you will be looking to go away on holiday in 2023 so here are future term dates as a reminder:](#)

Spring 1: 10th January 2023 to 17th February 2023 (30 days)

Spring 2: 27th February 2023 to 31st March 2023 (25 days)

Summer 1: 17th April 2023 to 26th May 2023 (1st May and 8th May 2023 are bank holidays) (28 days)

Summer 2: 5th June 2023 to 21st July 2023 (35 days)

And finally...

Sorry to have a gripe, but when children come to school in their school PE kits on a Friday (juniors) and Thursday (infants) they must be wearing the school PE kit: a pair of dark (navy or black) joggers or leggings; a white or royal blue t-shirt; and their school or royal blue jumper/cardigan. This is especially important with our junior pupils as we take them off –site on a Friday for swimming and they are representing our school. If any family is struggling to afford these, please do come and see me and your concern will be dealt with discretely and sensitively.

Live 'life in all its fullness.'

Claire Hewitt

Deputy Head Teacher