

April 2026

Rowsley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our April newsletter!

April has brought a real sense of energy and renewal to our school, with longer days, brighter weather, and plenty of exciting learning taking place both inside and outside the classroom. This month, pupils have been exploring new topics, developing their skills, and showing great enthusiasm in everything; there is a great buzz around school. As we head further into the spring term, we're proud to celebrate their achievements and share some of the wonderful moments that have made April such a positive and productive time for our school community.

Summer Term

Please keep an eye on the newsletter, website calendar and the board outside school for dates as Summer Term is always VERY busy, especially for Y6!

Change of Date – Please note that we have had to change the date of our Sports Day to Wednesday 17th June as the original date now coincides with a transition date for some of our Y6s.


INSET – Please note that there are 2 INSET days in June: Friday 19th June & Monday 22nd June

Breakfast Club Changes

Due to the Year 6s sitting their SATs Monday 11th May until Thursday 14th May, Breakfast Club will be held in Miss Lindley's classroom. Normal service will resume on Friday 15th May. Please use the infant entrance for this period of time. Thank you.

Y6 SATs Reminder

Please see below for the SATs timetable:

Monday 11 th May	Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary paper Spelling test
Tuesday 12 th May	Reading paper
Wednesday 13 th May	Maths arithmetic paper Maths reasoning paper
Thursday 14 th May	Second maths reasoning paper
Friday 15 th May	You're done! 

On the week of SATs, I will open the classroom from 8am **JUST** for Y6s. During this session, the children will be able to have a relaxed breakfast with their classmates – I provide croissants, pain au chocolat, toast, fruit, cereal and fruit juice. We tend to spend the time chatting, singing, dancing, going over anything they are worried about and getting ourselves ready for the test ahead. **We aim to start promptly at 9am so please make sure that your child is on time.**

After SATs, on Thursday 14th May, the children will have a cricket tournament on Rowsley Rec and on Friday 15th May, I will take the children to Peak Village for an ice cream and a play by the river.

The Y5s will be given independent research tasks to complete based on our topic whilst the tests are going ahead and they will either complete this in the infant classroom or the Y3/4 classroom. They will be back in the classroom with me at all other times during the day.

It really helps the children to keep up with their usual routines at home. Please reassure them that they are not to worry about their SATs – I will do the worrying for them.

If you, or your child, have any questions or queries about the SATs, please do email me on c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk

[Mrs Hewitt to visit Buckingham Palace!](#)

From Mrs Wyr: We are delighted to share with you that our very own wonderful Mrs Hewitt has been invited to meet royalty on Friday 8th May at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, in recognition of her outstanding service to our school and education as a whole. Anyone that has been fortunate enough to be taught by or worked with Mrs Hewitt will know that she goes above and beyond every single day to ensure her students have the very best education. Claire was nominated by a parent and seconded by myself and the governing body, and we are pleased that her dedication has been recognised. From all the staff and governors and I am sure parents and pupils - well done Mrs Hewitt! We couldn't be prouder!

[Kit Sponsorship](#)

We are still looking for a local or family-related business to sponsor a sports kit for our school. A school kit would mean that we not only play and win like a team but that we look like one too. If you know of anyone who would be interested in sponsoring us, please could you let me know or ask them to email me at c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk

We are going to be writing to some local businesses but would love for it to be someone with links to our school.

[What is going on in school?](#)

The Julia Donaldson Class (EYFS, Y1 & Y2)

We have been super busy in the infant class this half term! We have taken a trip to Haddon Hall to learn all about the Elizabethan era. We had such a lovely day and walked all the way back - all the children were fantastic!

We also have taken a trip to a local farm as part of Reception's 'On the Farm' topic. We saw the lambs and calves! In the same week, we also had a visit from 3 very cute ducklings. The children got to hold and stroke the ducklings (even if they did try and escape multiple times!)

We will hopefully be welcoming some chicks into our class in a week's time. We are currently incubating 7 eggs. The children have done a great job at keeping the water topped up and ensuring they are extra gentle around the incubator when checking the eggs. We are super excited to see them hatch!

A big thank you to Rachel Bower, our lovely piano teacher, for providing the eggs and incubator and for coming in with the ducklings.



The Judith Kerr Class (Y3 & Y4)

Year 3/4 have been enjoying learning about sound in science lessons. We have used it as a good excuse to dig out and play as many musical instruments as we can, as well as making a few of our own. Children have been investigating vibrations, volume and pitch through lots of practical activities. In computing, children have been getting to grips with spreadsheets on both Purple Mash and Google Sheets. If you need help with budgeting, the children are excellent at writing formulas to keep track of spending! Of course they also enjoy making their spreadsheets look lovely and are whizzes at changing the text colour and background. Our history and English have linked nicely this half term, with children imagining we have a school time machine and writing about visiting both the Panathenaic Games and the Olympics in Ancient Greece.



The Joseph Coelho Class (Y5 & Y6)

This half term we are learning about the Ancient Maya in History and Light in Science. The children have been fascinated with some of the rituals performed by the Maya people. We will soon be learning the Mayan language and writing system and some of their sporting activities – particularly a game called pok-ta-pok. It was originally believed that the winners or losers of pok-ta-pok were sacrificed, but this is in fact not true. Neither the winners nor losers were sacrificed, with the exception of a game that took place instead of going to war against a city. In this instance, teams from both cities would play each other and the leader of the losing team may be killed, although often they were allowed to live as long as the losing city would supply the winners with a quantity of jade, obsidian or other special goods.

I promise to not sacrifice any children in the playing of this game.

A big thank you to Chloe Clayson from 'Walk through the Bible'. She finished the 5 week block on the stories of the New Testament this week. The children have done role plays, freeze frames and lots of other fun activities during this block of work. Can you guess the stories in these photos?



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
May		
Monday 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY	School Closed
Monday 11th May	SATs Week	See timetable above
Thursday 14th May	Cricket Tournament	At Rowsley Rec – for Reception, Y1, Y2, Y5, Y6. No spectators for this event please.
Friday 15th May	Ice-Cream Treat	SATs ice cream treat for Y6s at Peak Village
Monday 18th May	Doughnut Sales	PTA selling doughnuts after school
Wednesday 20th May	Start date for the new goals installation	Expected to take 3 days, there may be some changes to breaktimes
Thursday 21st May	Bunting Cup	All day football event in Matlock for selected Y5 & Y6s – your child will have a letter about this if they are attending.
Friday 22nd May	No Swimming	Swimming will resume Friday 5th of June
Friday 22nd May	School Closes	School closed for 1 week for Spring Bank Holiday
June		
Monday 1st June	School Re-opens	Final term
Wednesday 3rd June	Multiplication Check	Y4 only
Wednesday 3rd June	NHS Dental Check for 5 year olds	Consent letters will be sent to relevant children
W/c Monday 8th June	DfE Breakfast Club Assessment Week	Please send your child to breakfast club if you can this week to ensure our funding can continue
Thursday 11 th June	Y3/4 Residential	Lea Green & School Sleepover
Monday 15 th June	PTA Water Olympics Event	In school time, more details to follow
Tuesday 16th June	Transition session for new Reception starters, followed by new parents meeting	2.30pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 17th June	Bags 2 School Collection	More details to follow
Wednesday 17th June	Sports Day	Starting at 1pm on Rowsley Rec, all welcome.
Friday 19th June	INSET	School Closed
Monday 22nd June	INSET	School Closed
Wednesday 24th June	Transition session for new Reception starters	9.30am – 10.30am
Thursday 25th June	Sporting event at Youlgrave	Year 3/4 Tennis Year 5/6 Rounders
Friday 26th June	Lady Manners Transition Day for Year 6s	
Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July	Well-dressing Week	Volunteers welcome
Monday 29th June	Carnegie Awards at Lady Manners	In school time for Year 6s, more details to follow
Tuesday 30th June	Non-uniform Day	In exchange for donations of sweets etc for the Summer Fair

July		
Wednesday 1st July	Whole School Transition Day	New Reception starters in 9.30am – 11.30am Year 6s to Lady Manners
Thursday 2nd July	Highfields and Hope Valley College Transition Day for Year 6s	
Monday 6th July to Wednesday 8th July	Y5/6 Residential	Boggle Hole
Tuesday 14th July	KS2 End of Year Production	Sherlock & Cinders – 2 performances, times TBC
Thursday 16th July	School Summer Fair	Details to follow
Tuesday 21st July	Y6 Leavers' Event	Pizza and Water Fight Night
Wednesday 22nd July	School Leavers' Service	9.30am at St Katherine's Church Followed by tea and cake back at school
Thursday 23rd July	Last Day of Term	School closes

And finally...

The school newsletter can be found on our school website and diary dates are on the school website calendar.

If you have any queries or questions, please do speak to us or arrange a meeting. You can email the school at info@rowsley.derbyshire.sch.uk or email myself at c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk

If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter, please let me know and this can be arranged.

Live 'life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10b)

Claire Hewitt

Deputy Head Teacher