

Message from the Head Teacher

It has felt a very long and a very strange term and the end of the most difficult year that many of us have ever faced. I know so many of you have had a tough year and will be looking forward to a new year in the hope that things improve slightly.

Although school life has been different, and in many ways difficult, it has also been incredibly positive and heart-warming. It is in times of adversity that you really see what counts and the smiles, enthusiasm for learning and positive energy that our pupils give us on a daily basis makes everything seem a little better and a little more hopeful. In addition to this, the support from the parent body has just been incredible. You have all accepted our changes to rules and routines and understand why we have to make the decisions that we do whether that is staggered starts or changes to clubs or the lack of face-to-face contact with your child's class teacher. We have never had so many letters, cards and emails of thanks and it all means so much to us.

The staff team have worked tirelessly over the term (and year) and they continue to amaze me with their dedication towards the children and the school. Many of you may be thinking that that's what they get paid for but when I hear about: the Teachers shopping for presents for their pupils at the weekend (using their own money to pay for them); the Admin staff responding to emails in the evenings; the Caretaker checking on the building at weekends; the Teaching Assistants making resources or undertaking training in their own time and my Deputy Heads working late in to the evening to ensure the school runs smoothly, it makes me realise how fantastic they all are. They go out of their way to try and make sure that every child feels safe and happy at school and enthusiastic about their learning. We won't always get it 100% right for every child but we will have put in 100% effort.

We have remained relatively unscathed by the Coronavirus at school and have managed to keep the school fully open every day, with no bubble closures. However, we need to ensure we are just as vigilant and careful in January on return to school. Please make sure that if your child displays any symptoms whatsoever or if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, that they do not come to school. I fear January could see a huge rise in cases.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and I hope you all have a lovely, peaceful time with your families.

With warmest regards, Miss Butters



Stars of the Week

Reception

Giraffes:

Olivia P

Lions:

Harriet

Zebras:

Kanushi

Year One

Hedgehogs:

Valeria

Owls:

Ellie

Rabbits:

Keira

Year Two

Orcas:

Sanaya

Penguins:

Eve

Seals:

Calleigh

Year Three

Crocodiles:

Chloe

Kangaroos:

Rory

Turtles:

Colby-Jay May

Year Four

Bears:

Hunter

Eagles:

Patrick

Raccoons:

Bonnie

Year Five

Elephants:

Sammy

Pandas:

Olivia

Tigers:

Kai

"We have a long way to go" sighed the boy.
"Yes but look how far we have come" said the horse.





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Special visitor

On Tuesday the children had a very special visitor come all the way from the North Pole! Father Christmas saw all the children in their year group bubbles and each child was able to collect a gift.

A huge thank you to **Rugby Rokeby Lions Club** for making this happen and massive thanks to the **Friends of Rugby Free Primary**, our school PTA, for providing every child with a Christmas gift. This took many hours of buying and organising and they do all of this voluntarily.



Certificates of Achievement Certificates:

Reception:

Louis & Wilf
Cohen & Jayden D
Noah & Cristian

Year One:

Stephen & Nicholas
Mishaal & Mishaal
George & Tariq

Year Two:

Finn & Inna
Isla W & Joseph
Lara & Toby

Year Three:

Rebecca & Sienna
Rebecca E & Charlie
Lucy & Abdul

Year Four:

Amber & Summer-
Leigh
Sydney & Sophie
Ashira & Jacob

Year Five:

Elsie-Mai & Erin M
Nathaniel & Darci-
Rose
Georgia & Zac

Y4 Roman day

On Wednesday, Year 4 celebrated everything they had learnt in their topic, 'I am Warrior'. They made Roman jewellery, shields and weapons, painted Roman artwork, created Roman mosaics, solved puzzles using Roman numerals, researched more about the Romans using books and iPads and finally took part in a Centurions March. We had a fantastic time, everyone looked amazing and it was a wonderful way to end this topic!



Christmas arts & crafts

We had a fantastic day on Monday for our Christmas arts & crafts day. Each year group completed at least two activities which they were able to take home.



Reception had lots of different crafting stations for the children to choose from. They made Santa

faces on paper plates, hanging pine cone tree decorations, lollipop stick Christmas trees and lots of practicing of cutting and sticking for Christmas tree pictures.





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Year 1 made some Christmas cards from strips of paper and then we made a Christmas penguin tag. The children even went on the laptops to show off their art skills and drew Christmas pictures.



In Year 2, they created two different wooden Christmas tree decoration using different painting techniques, including making a stencil out of masking tape. They also created a Christmas card based on our learning about Henry Matisse. Merry Christ-Matisse to you all!



Year 3 created their own silhouette art, 3D snowmen and a pop up Christmas card using concertina skills. They have had lots of fun and really go in to the Christmas spirit!



Year 4 made and decorated delicious gingerbread men. They also created beautiful festive table centrepieces with a candle in the centres and decoration from local foliage. We have budding bakers and florists amongst the Year 4 team!

Year 5 applied their art learning from Art this term to create some beautiful cards using water-colour and line drawing. They created prints of patterned Christmas trees and embellished their designs with a dash of glitter! Finally, we followed Mrs Colledge's step by step guide to create a 3D, embroidered Christmas decoration! This was super tricky and we definitely all used our values of endeavour and resilience.





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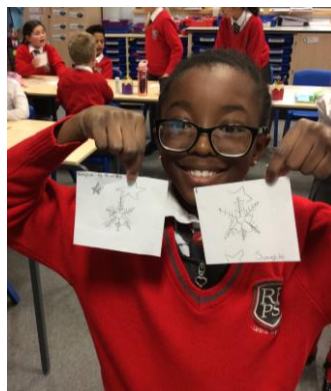
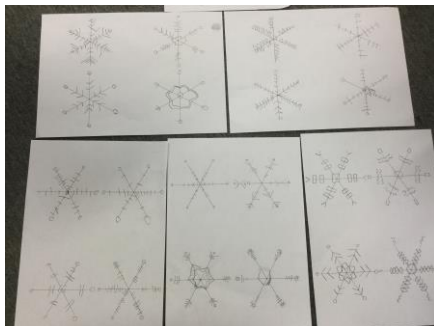
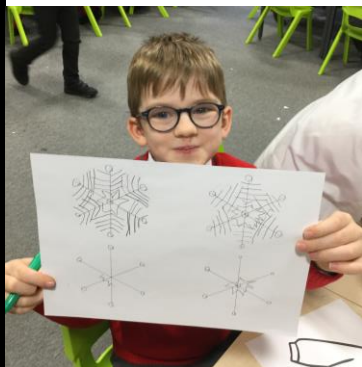
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Endeavour

This half term, our school value has been 'Endeavour'. The children have definitely 'endeavoured' with their work over the past few weeks and we are very proud of all they have achieved. To round off our thinking about this value, all children across the school took part in a drawing assembly. Each child produced a drawing of a snowflake. It was not easy. They had to endeavour, sometimes trying several times in to produce their best work. We think you will agree that the end results were beautiful!



Sports leaders

A big thank you to everyone who applied to become a Sports Leader. Congratulations to our newly appointed team who look forward to starting their new roles when we return in the new year:

Reception: Tessa D

Year One: Erin H

Year Two: Ruben

Year Three - Turtles: Lucas, Kangaroos: John, Crocodiles: Rebecca

Year Four – Bears: Hunter, Eagles: James, Raccoons: Aarav

Year Five – Elephants: Amadou, Pandas: Lola, Tigers: Lacey

Achievement in Year 1

Scarlett and some friends from Year 1 (and other children from RFPS) have been working super hard outside of school towards their Martial Arts gradings at G-Force. These take place every 3 months and considering the difficulties put on them because of lockdown, they have all tried really hard using Zoom and more recently their dojo lessons to practice hard. Scarlett passed with a merit and she is so pleased, her friends Oliver and Isaac passed too which is just brilliant. Scarlett also won their Christmas raffle last week and won a bike!

Well done Scarlett and everyone who has taken part.



Fond fairwell

This week we say goodbye to Miss Wheeler who has been working in Year 3. Miss Wheeler has completed her Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship with us and now moves onto pastures new. We would like to thank Miss Wheeler for everything she has done with RFPS and wish her all the best for her next challenge.

Rugby Foodbank donations



Thank you so much for all of the donations for the Rugby foodbank these past 2 weeks. Together we collected 113kgs of food! It has been delivered to the foodbank by Richard, a very kind parent who organised this collection so that it can be distributed to families in need this Christmas. The fantastic amount received despite this challenging year is testament to your kindness and generosity and shares a positive message with our children. The photograph represents not even half of the donations received! Thank you





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Attendance/Lateness

At RFPS we believe that children who attend school every day and on time stand the best possible chance of achieving well at school. During the Autumn term we have lost 91 hours and 16 minutes of teaching time through lateness. It is hard socially and academically for a child who arrives late on a regular basis and makes it difficult for teachers and staff to do their job effectively too. Children should be on the playground for their start time: Reception – no later than 8.50am; Year 1 – 8.40am; Years 2 & 3: 8.50am; Years 4 & 5: 9.00am. The gates will close promptly at 9.00am. Thank you for your support.

Parent/Carer Support – Message from the School Health & Wellbeing Service

We are aware that after a year of upheaval and uncertainty, lots of parents/carers are trying to support their children with issues including challenging behaviour, difficult emotions, sleep disorders and many others. We would like to reiterate that help is available for Warwickshire families, and have posted this blog article - <https://www.compass-uk.org/news/parents/help-at-christmas/> - to inform parents/carers of how they can seek advice from our service and Family Lives, an organisation we are working with to provide a wider level of support. The article also contains useful websites, other local services and self-help resources.

Before and After School Clubs changes

We have listened to parents feedback and responded to the difficulties parents have when collecting multiple children from different year groups. From January 5th when we return, we will receive and dismiss Reception & Year 1 children for/from their Before and After school clubs from the main playground. This includes dropping off in the morning for breakfast club at 7.45am and collecting at either 4.30pm or 5.30pm. Thank you for your valued feedback. This will hopefully help parents with children in different years.

Monthly Photography Competition

December's theme is: Celebrations!

Please email your entry to Mrs Odwell – eleonor.odwell@rugbyfreeprimary.co.uk by 3rd January @ 5pm with your child's name in the email. We can't wait to see all of the different, creative and inspiring photographs.

Diary Dates

18th Dec - Teacher training day

21st Dec – 1st Jan – Christmas Holiday

4th Jan – Staff Training day

5th Jan – Children return to school

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for your kind donations on our Christmas Jumper Day last Friday.

We raised **£260.40** for the Save the Children charity.



Save the Children