



# Rudyard Kipling Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

## where learning is an adventure!

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Issue 25-26 17

Headteacher Reports:

STAY SOCIAL



@RudyardSchool

@Rudyardkiplingprimary

It is always a sad day in July when our Year 6 children leave us, ready to embark on their new secondary school adventures. However, many of our leavers come back and will always be proud to say that they went to school at RKPS.

Creating this strong sense of belonging is extremely important to us as a school: just one way that we achieve this is by ensuring a smooth transition from primary to secondary school. Earlier this week, Miss Vaughan spent the morning at our local secondary school, Longhill, spending some time in classrooms observing Rudyard alumni pupils, busily working hard. As an English specialist, Miss Vaughan is able to provide guidance to her secondary school colleagues as to successful pedagogical strategies they can use and we learn from Longhill teachers too. It is pleasing that we continue to maintain a strong relationship with Longhill.

Another secondary school we are working closely with is Roedean. Our children have been enjoying some problem solving activities organised by the students over there and I will be accompanying one of our Year 3 classes to Roedean again next week which I am looking forward to.

Thank you to the many parents who came along to our KS1 Phonics Workshop on Wednesday. We hope that you now have some good ideas as to games you can play with your children at home to help them become more confident and accurate readers and spellers. Next week, there is lots to look forward to, including Year 1's 'Turrets and Tiaras' day which should be a royal blast!

Finally, a reminder that the school car park is for staff only. However, a few families, who have blue badges, have an arrangement with the school to use it- thank you for being sensitive to this.

Have a wonderful weekend

*Euan Flanigan*

Headteacher



KS1 Phonics Workshop



# Special Mentions

## Emma



Emma you are a breath of fresh air! Each day, you demonstrate all our 5 Rs, especially remembering. Your ability to think back to previous learning and use it to support you is admirable – especially in maths! It is great to see you not only using this to think critically, but it also supports your friends. Numbers are no match for you, Emma! Keep shining bright, you remembering role model!

Y1



## Isaac

Super scientist Isaac! What a term it has been for you and your fabulous mind! You are curious, creative, and always ready to dive into a challenge. You bring a spark of excitement to everything you work on, asking thoughtful questions and pushing ideas further each time. It has been a joy to see how much you've grown; your hard work and enthusiasm have made this term a fabulous one. Keep it up you star!

## Harli



Need someone to model how to prepare their book and table for the next lesson? Harli will show you! Unsure how to organise your resources for a challenging learning task? Harli will model it for you! Any areas need a special tidy up and arranging beautifully? Harli has that magic touch! Harli, thank you. You are our hero and the ready, steady queen of our class. We are so lucky to have you!

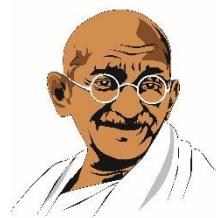
Y2

## Lily



Lily has shown fantastic progress over the last couple of weeks. She is coming into lessons focused and ready to learn and is becoming much more confident in sharing her ideas on the carpet. Lily is also showing great resilience by trying hard and giving things a good go before asking an adult for help. Even when learning feels tricky, she stays positive and supports her friends to do the same - her perpetual positivity makes Parks class a perfectly positive place to be! Well done Lily.

## Iris



Fabulous Reegan, you have been a shining star this week! I am amazed at how much resilience and effort you are putting into all your learning. Each day your independence is increasing, and you can produce fantastic work with less help! Reading your writing in Pugs of the Frozen has been a joy! Well done keep it up Reegan!

Y3

## Zachary



Y3

Zachary shows great readiness and dedication to his work. He consistently approaches tasks with a positive attitude and is eager to get started. He tries his hardest in every lesson, showing determination even when he finds something challenging. Zachary is showing more confidence every day in his ability to succeed. Great work Zachary!

## Eva



When it comes to dedication, there are few who can outshine Eva. Lately, she has been bringing a notebook to school, noting down all that she learns in class, so that she can practise at home. This seriously resilient girl is always aspiring to improve, and it is a joy to behold. Thank you, Eva. Keep being such a determined young learner!

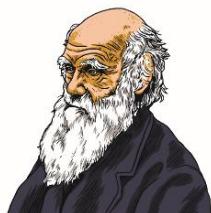
Y4

## Harrison



This last week, Harrison has demonstrated outstanding kindness. He tries hard to be a reflective person, who is curious about what might be going on for someone else, rather than cross when he doesn't understand. Harrison reflects on his own feelings too, which helps him to stay regulated and ready for learning in the classroom. Bravo Harrison!

## Elliot



Elliot has returned to Year 5 after Christmas with such a great, can-do attitude. He has been focusing on applying himself in his learning and has shown superb reflection, leading to improved learning outcomes in his written work. Learning aside, Elliot you have such a great sense of humour and a fantastic member of team Darwin! Well done on a great start to the term!

Y5

## Darcie



Darcie always represents our school values, but what really stands out is her resilience. Even after fracturing her ankle, she has stayed incredibly positive and determined to be involved in school life. Darcie has done a fantastic job as a score counter in PE, and her positive attitude and willingness to get involved, even when things are tough, is impressive and make her a great role model for others.

## Dempsey



Y6

Dempsey showed fantastic resourcefulness by borrowing the tune from Escape (The Pina Colada Song) to help bring his poem to life. His poem about evacuation was powerful and full of emotion, and he shared brilliant ideas that really captured the tougher, negative side of the evacuation process in WWII. A creative and memorable piece of work!



|                 |                                    |   |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|---|
| YR Thunberg     | Eva<br>Rue and Teddy               | Wonderful writing about 'The Naughty Bus'!<br>For being   |
| Y1 Kahlo        | Heidi-Rose                         | Super writing   |
| Y1 Obama        | Issac and Casper                   | Impressive prediction work.   |
| Y2 Attenborough | Moses<br>Amina<br>Oakleigh and Fox | Excellent creative writing<br>For being a Writing Wizard<br>For amazing maths using great teamwork.           |
| Y3 Pankhurst    | Jessie<br>Theo                     | For being a star reader!<br>Super descriptive writing   |
| Y4 Mandela      | Chiara<br>Luke                     | For superb guided reading learning<br>For superb guided reading learning                                      |
| Y5 Darwin       | Amelia<br>Isaac<br>Lana            | First class descriptive writing<br>Wonderful abstract art work<br>For a super piece of creative writing       |
| Y5 Seacole      | Euan<br>Eli                        | A truly imaginative piece of creative writing,<br>designing a 'Book Land' theme park!<br>Year 6 quality maths |

## NEW: Weekly Maths Challenge

The Maths team are excited to start adding maths challenges to our newsletter. As times tables are a key focus this year, we'll begin with a missing-number multiplication grid. One challenge will be included each week, and children can complete it independently, with family, or share their answers with myself or Miss Wiseman. We hope you enjoy giving them a go!

Miss Davies

|          |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|
| $\times$ | 5  |    |    | 4  |
| 2        | 10 | 18 |    | 8  |
|          |    |    |    |    |
|          |    |    |    |    |
|          |    |    | 24 |    |
| 7        | 35 |    |    | 28 |



After School Club    KS1 – Lily in Parks for always being so positive  
 KS2 – Roma in Pankhurst for being so positive at A.S.C

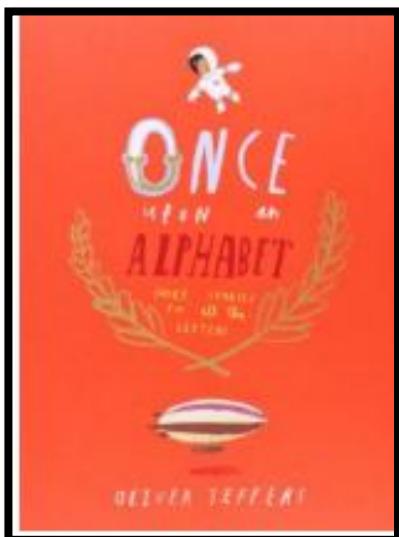
## Rudyard Reading Recommendations

Hello all, every week the English Team and various adults around school share two reading recommendations for you and your lovely children to read.

### **Reading Research Alert:**

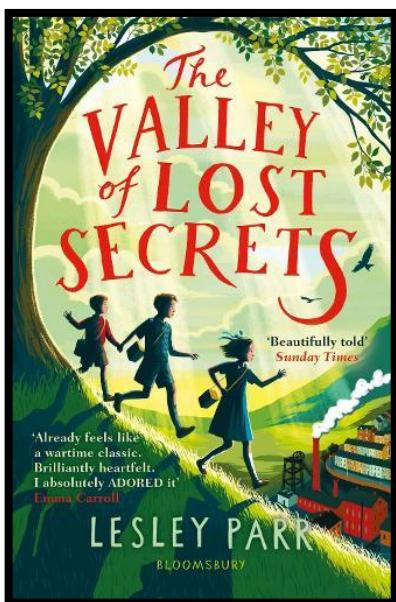
*"Students who read for pleasure make significantly more progress in vocabulary, spelling and maths than children who read very little." Sullivan and Brown 2013.*

### **Once Upon an Alphabet. Short Stories for all the Letters by Oliver Jeffers**



A brilliant, humorously executed, concept based around the idea that each letter must have a story because 'If words make up stories, and letters make up words, then stories are made of letters'. A very brief, frequently philosophical, story is attributed to each letter. The meaning is melded together by Oliver Jeffers' expressive cartoon style drawings and by the inclusion in the text of several words beginning with that letter. Thus battling Bernard and Bob burn a bridge, and Mary discovers that molecules matter. An implied moral can be teased out from some of these short fables. Unexpected links occur between several stories. Find out what elephants and envelopes have got to do with the letter N. Meet recurring characters the owl and the octopus who roam the world solving problems.

### **The Valley of Lost Secrets by Lesley Parr**



An enthralling wartime adventure, Parr's debut children's novel centres on a lonely evacuee and a spooky discovery in a Welsh village.

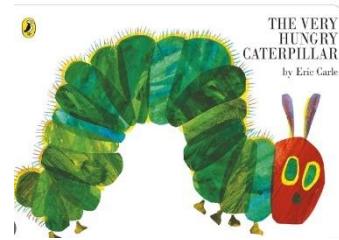
September 1939.

When Jimmy is evacuated to a small village in Wales, it couldn't be more different from London. Green, quiet and full of strangers, he instantly feels out of place. But then he finds a skull hidden in a tree, and suddenly the valley is more frightening than the war.

Who can Jimmy trust? His brother is too little; his best friend has changed. Finding an ally in someone he never expects, they set out together to uncover the secrets that lie with the skull. What they discover will change Jimmy - and the village - forever. A mesmerising mystery about bravery and brotherhood from an outstanding new voice.

## Fab Fit Fridays

Last week, to celebrate Carle class we used yoga to explore The Very Hungry Caterpillar story.



This week, we celebrate Nelson Mandela's strong leadership by playing 'follow the leader' and team games



## Children's Mental Health Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

On **Friday 13th February**, we will be taking part in **Children's Mental Health Day** as part of our wider Mental Health & Wellbeing focus this term.

During the day, children will take part in a creative activity called “This Is My Place”, where they will create artwork showing the people, places and activities that help them feel safe, happy and that they belong.

We'll also be talking together about simple ways we can look after our mental health at school, such as breathing exercises, kindness and taking calm moments when we need them.

### **Mrs Goozee's Top Tips for Supporting Wellbeing at Home**

**Talk little and often** – asking simple questions like “What made you smile today?” can really help children open up.

**Create a calm moment** – try a short breathing exercise together before bed or after a busy day. Mountain breathing is a Thunberg class favourite!

**Notice feelings** – help your child name how they feel and reassure them that all feelings are okay. In school, we help children talk about their emotions by thinking about whether their feelings feel “just right” or need some support. See <https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/media/1001858/Zones-of-Regulation.pdf>

**Celebrate belonging** – talk about the people, places or activities that help your child feel safe and happy.

**Model kindness** – children learn a lot from seeing how adults manage emotions and show care to others.

We look forward to sharing some of the children's wonderful work after half term as we create a whole-school celebration of wellbeing.

## Equalities

In PSHE, Year 2 have learnt about gender stereotyping. We started off by sorting items into gender groups.

We realised that we had made assumptions about each gender because of colour/style or purpose. For example, because the scooter is pink, some of us assumed only girls would play with it but this was not actually the case. We then put all the items in one category, agreeing that the sorting depends on someone's preferences e.g. what they like, what they feel good at/comfortable with. We concluded that it comes down to personal choice.



## Wescott Thursdays

The next Wescott Thursday (29<sup>th</sup> January) will be **Year Y2**.

## Forest School with Mr Wescott

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5 Seacole AM

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Year 3 Pankhurst PM

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Year 4 Yousafzai AM

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Year 4 Mandela PM

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Year 4 Franklin AM

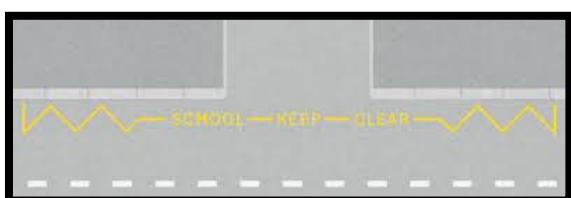


## Parking and dropping off

To help keep all our children, families and staff safe, we kindly remind parents that parking on the **yellow zig-zag lines** outside school **is not permitted at any time**. These markings must be kept clear to ensure visibility for pedestrians and to allow safe crossing for children. This also includes, stopping to drop off children.

Additionally, the staff car park cannot be used by parents, as it is small, busy during peak times and shared with our Nursery for drop offs and pick ups. A few families with Blue Badges have an arrangement with the school to use the car park. By avoiding these restricted zones, you help us maintain a safe and smooth arrival and departure for everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

If you see any antisocial parking or hazardous stopping, please report this with photo evidence to 'Operation Crackdown' via this link: <https://operationcrackdown.org/>



# PTFA Meeting – All Welcome

PTFA meeting 6th February

📢 Our next PTFA meeting is 2pm on the 6th February. In the dining hall.

❤️ Come along to have your say on future events and spending (and meet some lovely people!)

🎉 We have some very exciting events planned for this next term and ideas for how we'd like to spend money fundraised.

👉 If you would like to have your say, please do come along to the meeting. You can also post suggestions in the PTFA post box in the reception area or email on [rkpsptfa@gmail.com](mailto:rkpsptfa@gmail.com)

## Attendance at RKPS

While it is expected that children will pick up illnesses from time to time, we have noticed that some children are missing school for low-level symptoms such as headaches, colds, tiredness, and mild tummy aches. Our expectation is that children should still attend school when experiencing these minor illnesses.

**Reporting absences.** we have to record a reason for every absence from school so it is important that we have contact from an adult on each day of absence. If your child is too unwell to come to school please telephone the school office on 01273 303328 before 9.00am to let us know the reason,

**Medical/ Dental Appointments** Please try to avoid making appointments during school time where possible. Parents/carers must let the school office know in advance of any planned appointments during school time and must provide a copy of a letter / card or a text message confirming the appointment. If this is not provided school will be unable to authorise these appointments.

**Lateness** The school day starts promptly at 8.45am, so you need to ensure that your child is on the school premises before that time. Late arrivals are disruptive to the whole class and often embarrassing for your child. We take the view there are no late children, only late parents. Arrival after the close of registration will be marked as unauthorised absence in line with the Department of Education guidance. Persistent lateness can also incur a fixed penalty fine from the Local Authority. Any children arriving after 8.45am must be accompanied to the school office by the parent /carer, where they will be asked to sign them in. Lateness is monitored regularly. Where children have persistent lateness problems, we will inform parents/carers of school concerns by letter, or invite the parents into the school for a meeting.

### **Attendance at a Glance**

#### **Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year**

Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.

#### **95%: 10 days absence a year**

These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.

#### **90%: 19 days absence a year**

These pupils are missing a month of school per year. The Government classifies pupils in this group as “Persistent Absentees” and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work. Parents of young people in this group may face legal action being taken by the Local Authority.

## RKPS Online Uniform Shop

This is a reminder that the school now has an online shop. You can order uniform by clicking this link: <https://workkit.co.uk/collections/rudyard-kipling-primary-school> and entering PW: RudyardKipling25

We only have very limited stock in school and orders are restricted to one item per child each time. If you need to check sizes, please visit the school office and check relevant sizing charts.

## After School Club Late Pick Up Charge.

I would like to kindly remind you that your child must be collected **before 5:30pm**. Our staff are only paid until this time, and the room must be vacated promptly so it can be cleaned and prepared for Breakfast Club the following morning.

If you experience any issues with collection, please use the direct line to the After School Club from **3:15pm onwards on 01273 304597**.

Please note that we are considering introducing a late collection charge as we have a number of persistently late adults collecting their children. This means staff are late returning to their own families.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

*And finally...*

## Dates for the Diary

| <b>January 26</b>          |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> | Junior Roedean Academy - Pankhurst                          |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>  | Farm School - Reception                                     |
| <b>February 26</b>         |   |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Junior Roedean Academy Y3, Fire Fighters visiting Reception |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>     | PTFA Meeting, all welcome 14:00pm                           |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> | Reception Police Visit, World Number Day Dress Up           |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>    | LAST DAY OF HALF-TERM                                       |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>    | CHILDREN RETURN   |



# Notice Board

**Ollie's RHYTHM MASTER CLUB** [ollieheath.com](http://ollieheath.com)

"OUTSTANDING!" (OFSTED January 2025)



## Beatbox, Sing, Rap & Drum

**What will your child experience in the club?**

Learn to beatbox, learn to sing, learn to rap and make beats with everything! Each term we learn new songs, raps and rhythms. So, if you've been before, there's more to learn, much more!

Pupils will all get to make music with 'Rhythm Master Microphones' and a wide range of percussion and drums.

**More than Music!**  
Benefits include improvement in confidence, creativity, cooperation and concentration.

**About Ollie:**  
Ollie is a qualified Teacher, guest lecturer, professional musician and YouTuber. He has been running workshops and training Teachers across the UK and beyond for 25 years.

**Day:** Fridays  
**Times:** 8 - 8.40am  
**Open to:** Rec - Yr 6

**Dates:**  
 16/1, 23/1, 30/1  
 6/2, 13/2, 27/2,  
 6/3, 13/3, 20/3 & 27/3

**Cost:** £6 per class  
**Total:** £60 (10 classes)

**Don't want your child to miss out?**  
Rhythm Masters usually books up fast. So, do not delay, sign your child up today. [LINK BELOW.](#)

**Purchase a Space for Rhythm Masters**  
[ollieheath.com/rhythmmasterclub](http://ollieheath.com/rhythmmasterclub)

**WOODINGDEAN WANDERERS FC**

# WWFC U11 WILDCATS



LOOKING FOR DEDICATED GIRLS TO COME JOIN OUR WILDCATS TEAM! OUR GIRLS ARE FUN FRIENDLY AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND LOVE TO LAUGH IF YOU THINK YOU FIT THE BILL PLEASE CONTACT US TO COME AND TRIAL XX

**COACH SELINA 07958 526978**

**POP THE CAMPS**

[www.woodingdeanwanderersfc.com](http://www.woodingdeanwanderersfc.com)  
HAVE FUN. MAKE FRIENDS. PLAY FOOTBALL



**AFTER SCHOOL SKATE CLUB**

RUDYARD KIPLING PRIMARY SCHOOL



Every Tuesday from 24th Feb - 24th March  
3.15 - 4.15pm  
For ages 7 +

Suitable for Beginners & Improvers with all equipment provided

[www.bookwhen.com/levelsakateschool](http://www.bookwhen.com/levelsakateschool)

RUDYARD KIPLING Primary School & Nursery, Woodingdean

**olé**  
Spanish for Everyone

For over 20 years we have been teaching Spanish and we are very happy to be the **Approved and Official Spanish After School Provider** at **Rudyard Kipling Primary School**

At Olé Spanish for Everyone we offer relaxed, fun and immersive sessions where students can learn through games, food, songs and drama at the school premises

Our team of teachers give personalised attention to each student, ensuring they speak Spanish with ease. Please scan the QR Code or [click here](#) to book your child's place. We run sessions every Fridays & welcome children from Y1 to Yr 6.

**5% off this Spring term with the code OLE26**

Come and start your adventure

[www.olespanish.net](http://www.olespanish.net) [miriam@olespanish.net](mailto:miriam@olespanish.net)  
07405 029453