

RPS Weekly Newsletter



Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas tree is now up and the children are becoming very excited about the festive season. You should have received an email or note from the class teacher telling you what your children need to wear for the filming of their Christmas performance next Friday. Thank you in advance for your support with any costumes needed.

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday is Christmas Jumper Day and we will be collecting donations on this day for Save the Children. So please dig deep this Christmas.

Class Christmas Parties: Wednesday 15th December children will be having class parties in school. On this day they can dress in party clothes (sensible shoes and modest clothing please). Teachers will be organising food for the party and we are therefore asking that parents donate a £1 on Tuesday 7th December so that we can complete a shopping order. Please ask your child to give the money directly to their class teacher.



School Uniform Change: We are reviewing our school uniform but this will not change until September 2022. Children will continue to wear our current uniform.

Rotherhithe Mosaics: You may have noticed that our beautiful class mosaics have been removed from the wall at the main office gate. This is because they are being repaired ready to go into our new school. The Rotherhithe Anchor (designed by a former RPS pupil) will not however, survive the move so Wendy (local artist) is currently working on creating a new one. Children across the school will have the opportunity to see mosaic making in process and will lay a mosaic with the artist. Today children in Effra class had a go.

Chance UK: Today year 5 & 6 took part in workshops delivered by Chance UK. They considered their own mental health, how they have coped during lockdowns, and strategies to help them to look after their wellbeing and manage feelings.

Phonics Screening Check: Year 2 children have taken the phonics screening check this week. This test checks a child's ability to read single real and nonsense words. Nonsense words are included deliberately to check they can use their phonic skills. The teachers did the check with each child individually. They were extremely well behaved. Any children who were absent will take the check next week.

Have a happy weekend. Lisa (HoS)

COVID – 19 Update

Face Coverings: You will all be aware of the concerns related to the new Omicron COVID variant. On Monday the Department for Education (DfE) updated the guidance for schools and has recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors to primary schools in corridors and communal areas. We are therefore once again asking that parents and visitors wear a face mask while on the school's premises. Anyone who is exempt will not be expected to wear a face covering.

Currently the guidance states that face coverings are not required outdoors. It also states that face masks should **not** be worn in classrooms when working with children.

Children are **not** expected to wear face coverings.

Symptoms: If a member of staff, child or parent has symptoms of COVID 19 they should do a **PCR test** not a lateral flow test. Children should not attend school if they have symptoms of COVID.

Symptoms of concern continue to be a:

- new continuous cough
- loss of taste or smell
- fever

Isolation: Children and adults with symptoms of COVID or a positive PCR test or LFT are required to self-isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms.

If the PCR test is **negative** the child or adults can return to school when they are well enough to do so.

Close contacts: Children and adults who are double vaccinated are exempt from isolating if they are a close contact of a person with COVID. So children should continue to attend school unless they have symptoms of COVID themselves.

Omicron: However, the above exemption changes if you are a close contact of a person identified with the

Omicron variant. At this point all adults and children who are a close contact will be required to self-isolate.

Vaccination: Not all of our staff are double vaccinated. If your child tests positive for COVID you may need to provide details to Test and Trace if a member of staff is identified as a close contact. Please contact me if you have any questions alternatively you can provide the school details to Test and Trace and request they contact me directly.

Remote Learning: If a child has COVID 19 and is isolating at home we will provide remote education using Oak Academy resources. We will not expect children to complete home learning if they are feeling unwell. Parents should request home learning when informing staff of non-attendance due to a positive COVID result. At this point parents should indicate if they feel the child is well enough to complete work at home.

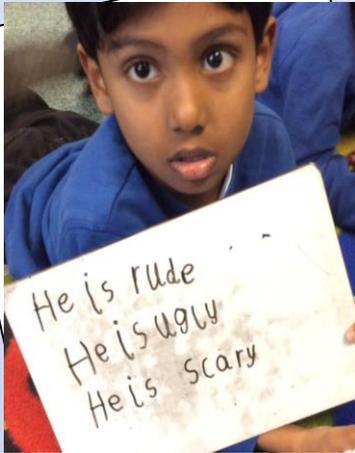
Bubbles: the guidance does **not** require staff or children to socially distance or return to mixing only in bubbles. However, due to the limited playground space, our children play with children in their own year group only and we still have slightly staggered start and exit times, so they rarely mix. Two year groups will mix for one assembly during the week.

This is all set out in our risk assessment on the school's website and we will inform you if we are required to change any of these arrangements.

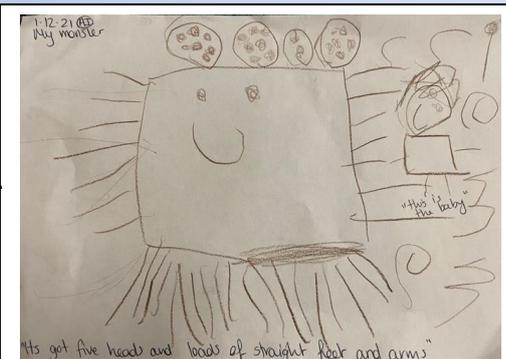
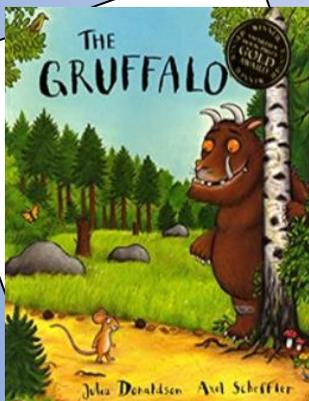
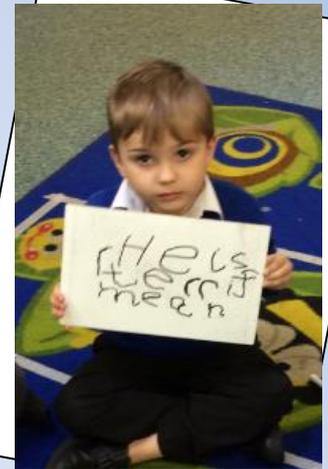
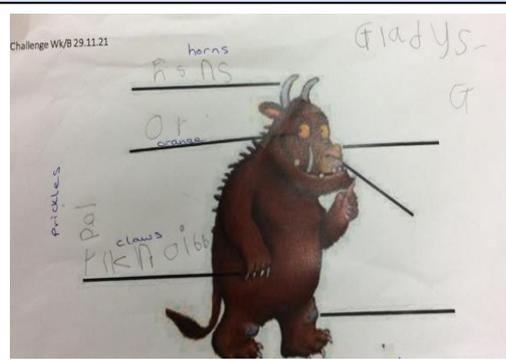
Parents should note that the guidance for Secondary schools is different to the guidance for primary schools.



Reception stars!



Reception children have been reading the story 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson and lots of their learning has been based around this book. They have been writing descriptions of the Gruffalo, designing their own monsters and they have also designed and written their own recipes for Gruffalo crumble... which they have made - yum!



Getting ready for Christmas!



In addition to learning about the Gruffalo this week, the children in Reception have a new post office role play area where the children have been busy writing their Christmas cards to various people.

There has been fantastic maths learning too.





STAR OF THE WEEK

Whale	Jayda	Jayda has worked hard to improve her writing this week and she has produced some exceptional artwork in her art lessons. Her listening skills are amazing, and she is also performing her Christmas songs beautifully. Well done, Jayda.
Octopus	Noah	Noah has had a great attitude towards his maths this week. We have been learning to tell the time and Noah is not only able to read the time to 'o'clock' and 'half past, he can also explain how he knows the time using his star words!
Seal	Ariena	Ariena has been working independently this week. In Maths she is now able to complete her work all by herself and complete challenges. She has been very motivated and it has enabled her to produce really good Maths work. Well done Ariena
Effra	Ibrahim	Ibrahim has been working on improving his attitude towards his learning. He has focused this week on improving the legibility of his handwriting and as a consequence his work is clearer to read and you can see the detail and work that has gone into his ideas. Amazing!
Brent	Jasmine	Jasmine has, as always, had an excellent week. One thing that has really stood out this week has been her willingness to share knowledge, understanding and expertise. During our editing session in English, I found her supporting others with their spelling and punctuation and helping them to improve their work. So impressive!
Walbrook	Emma	For her superb work in literacy and science this week. She organises her ideas and thoughts very well and this shows in her written work and her calculations.
Ravensbourne	Emil	This week Emil showed true integrity; integrity simply means doing the right thing when no-one is watching. He decided to be a leader and not follow those around him who were making poor choices. In math, he also volunteered to help those that needed assistance. A true scholar this week, Emil. Nice job!
Lea	Evelyn	For always working very hard in class and having a very positive attitude to her learning always. Keep up the good work as this is evident in your progress. Well done!
Thames	Riley	For persevering in his mathematics work on <i>time</i> . He has worked hard to apply his knowledge of time when calculating reasoning questions. Well done!



10th December	Christmas Jumper Day Performances filmed
14th December	Christmas Dinner Achievement Awards
15th December	Class Christmas parties
16th December	Last Day Early school closure Reception at 1:45 pm Year 1, 2 and 5 leave at 1:55 pm Year 3, 4 and 6 at 2pm Nursery at 2:05pm
4th January	Children return to school

Attendance

All children should aim to have above **96%** attendance. Children with good attendance make greater progress nationally.

Class	Total	Best attendance
Early Years		
Jellyfish	82%	
Key Stage 1		
Whale	97.5%	
Octopus	82.2%	
Coral	84.8%	
Seal	79.6%	
Key Stage 2		
Effra	97.7%	
Brent	96.3%	
Walbrook	92.3%	
Ravensbourne	96.2%	
Wandle	96.3%	
Lea	88.3%	
Thames	88.7%	

Well done to the classes with the best attendance this week. Keep up the good work everyone!!

Please **do not** book holidays during term time. This negatively affects your children's education.

Please remember to take into account any quarantine requirements if you are travelling abroad.

Thought of the Week

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." - Sally Koch

Teacher Book Recommendations

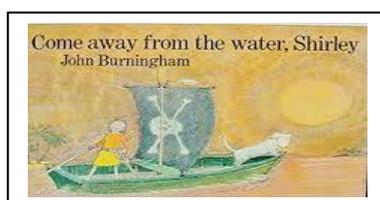
Teacher: **Jennifer Cristobal** (SENCo for Year 2 to 6)

One of my favourite Books is: **Come away from the water Shirley** by John Burningham.

This is one of my favourite books because in this story a quite ordinary day at the seaside for Shirley turns into something quite wonderful and amazing.

For others a chance to go the beach means relaxing and settling down snoozing on deck chairs and letting the day go by but for Shirley it is a chance to go on a trip of a lifetime; an adventure where she gets to encounter pirates as she sets sail in uncharted seas.

I love this book because it allows children's imagination to run wild. It's a great book that takes them to places of adventure and great experiences!





**Southwark Special Educational Needs and Disability
Children and Adult Services - Autism Support Team**
Invite you to attend the virtual parents conference:
Let's Talk About Autism 2021
6th December 2021
Online conference



9:30 - 9:45 Registration



9:45- 10:45 Dr Philippe Mandin, Lead family Therapist, Southwark CAMHS
"Negotiating relationships and navigating systems"

I now work mostly with adolescents and their families, focussing on relationships and communication. I meet fantastic young people who have helped me appreciate the richness of neuro-diversity but also the barriers that Autistic people of all cultural background experience in accessing services, until crises become unbearable. I now would like to give something back by sharing some of the stories and ideas, including the concept of the "window of tolerance" to make sense of sensory sensibilities and emotional regulation in relationships.

10:45—11:00 Tea / Coffee break



11:00 - 12:00 Kate E Reynolds, MDS, PGDCouns, PGDHEd, BSc (Hons), RGN
"Adolescence, puberty and sexuality"

Kate Reynolds worked for 18 years for our NHS mainly in HIV / AIDS as a trained counsellor, registered nurse and educator before having two children, both of whom are on the autism spectrum. Her daughter also had epilepsy and her son has intellectual disabilities. Kate has written 15 books, mainly about sexuality and autism and published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers. She also writes articles, speaks at conferences and runs training for parents and professionals. The bulk of Kate's advisory work with families and schools involves so-called "sexualised" or "inappropriate" behaviours. Kate has a Masters in Disability Studies and is working towards her doctorate.

12:00- 12:30 Lunch break



12:30—13:30 Marrie O'Connor and Melissa Bautista,
Occupational Therapists Evelina London Community Children's Services;
Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust
"Sensory and Participation: An OT Workshop for parents and carers"

Melissa Bautista is an Occupational Therapist (OT) who graduated from San Jose University in United States. Melissa has worked in London as an OT with children and families with ASD in private practice, specialist ASD schools and the NHS since 2005. She has proudly worked for the Evelina London Children's Community Occupational Therapy Team since 2015.



Marie O'Connor is an Occupational Therapist from Ireland. She worked with children and families in Australia and the UK in specialist schools and community clinics. Marie joined the Evelina London Children's Community Occupational Therapy Team in 2017.

Melissa and Marie have both completed postgraduate work in Sensory Integration from Ulster University.

13:30 — 13:45 Tea / Coffee break



13:45-14:45 Erin Davidson
"My journey—Walk in my shoes" (www.donaldsons.org.uk/walk-in-my-shoes/)

Hello, my name is Erin Davidson, I'm 18 and love reading books. My favourite genre is fantasy and my dream house is a hobbit hole in the country side where I have a small farm and goats, perfect for me to engage in my other passions Painting, Sketching and Writing. It is through my passion for writing and illustration that I felt I needed to share my personal experiences of being autistic and my journey to diagnosis and beyond. These experiences were challenging for me, especially during time in mainstream school. It was at this time I wrote, whilst in anger and distress, the piece of writing what would later become the video "A Walk In My Shoes".



Fundraising Raffle

£1 for 5 tickets

Pizza voucher for The Pizza Room
(5 prizes available)

Digital Camera

Book Bundle - Kids 4 to 7

Book Bundle - Kids 7 to 11

Festive Food Selection

Coffee voucher for The Pizza Room
(5 prizes available)



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

It's nearly here... **Friday 10th December** is
Christmas Jumper Day

We can't wait to see the fabulous jumpers the
children wear.



Free Fun Family Workshops with the London Wildlife Trust

at the Centre for Wildlife Gardening
28 Marsden Road SE15 4EE

Autumn Leaf Prints Saturday 27th

November 10 am till 3pm

Find out about the trees in our garden
and use their leaves to make different
types of print.

The Holly and the Ivy Saturday 11th

December 10 till 3.

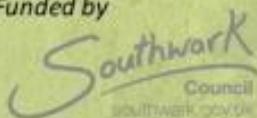
Explore evergreen plants in the
garden and make wreaths and other
decorations with them.



Suitable for parents and their
children of any age.
Southwark residents only.



Funded by



Limited places. To book visit <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/events>

Email Diana.dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk or phone **07740 717930**