

NEWSLETTER

Friday 3rd July

This week has been full of excitement! On Wednesday, Dragonflies and Otters enjoyed a surprise visit from Graciano from *Strictly Come Dancing*, who led a fun dance session for the children. A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Bott and Graciano for such a memorable experience. Please can you support us next Friday with any bits for our 'reuse and recycle' stall – our Eco-Committee want to raise money to help Mr Gildersleeve upgrade our wildlife area next year.

Strictly Surprise!

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome a very special visitor – Graciano from *Strictly Come Dancing*! Graciano very kindly treated Dragonflies and Otters classes to an impromptu assembly, which was an incredibly exciting surprise. All of the children enthusiastically joined in with a fun dancing activity, and Mrs Linford and Miss Moore even had the opportunity to perform a Strictly-inspired dance with Graciano. I also had a turn... although I think I'd rather everyone forgot that ever happened! A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Bott, and of course to Graciano, for making such a memorable experience possible for our children.



ATTENDANCE

Our school target for attendance this year is **97%**.
This week our attendance was **96.5%**



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Kingfishers Class

VIKING LONGSHIPS!



Kingfishers Class have been learning about Vikings and what made their longships so iconic.



The children explored the key features of longships, including their long, narrow design, lightweight build and dragon prows, and discussed why they were so successful for Viking voyages.



They then used clay, bits of material and wood to create their very own longships. The children showed great creativity and attention to detail, producing some fantastic models!

★ Well done, Kingfishers Class!



🌿 Eco Day – Wear Green on Friday 10th July! 🌿

To celebrate Eco Day, we are inviting children to wear green or other natural colours if they would like to. Taking part in non-uniform is completely optional – if your child would prefer not to join in, they should simply wear their normal school uniform as usual.

If your child chooses to take part, we would be very grateful for a small voluntary donation, which will help support our environmental projects.

After school, at collection time, we will also be holding our 'Reuse or Recycle It' Stall. We would love your donations of good-quality unwanted toys, books and clothes. Please send any items you no longer need into school before Eco Day so that we can prepare them for the stall.

Families will have the opportunity to purchase pre-loved items for a small donation, with all proceeds going towards developing our wildlife area next year. Mr Gildersleeve already has some exciting plans, and every contribution will help us create an even better outdoor environment for our children and local wildlife.

Thank you for your continued support – together we can make a real difference while giving unwanted items a new home!

Rockland St Mary School

ECO-DAY

Friday 10th July
After School



WEAR GREEN OR
NATURAL COLOURS

BRING UNWANTED TOYS,
CLOTHES OR BOOKS FOR
OUR 'REUSE OR RECYCLE IT' STALL

REUSE OR RECYCLE IT
STALL AT PICK UP

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS
OUR WILDLIFE AREA FOR
NEXT YEAR

**HELPING TO RAISE FUNDS TO FURTHER
IMPROVE OUR WILDLIFE AREA**



How to make a cress head

You will need an empty egg shell
Cress seeds
Cotton wool, either balls or roll (not pads)
Egg box or an egg cup
Pens or felt tips to decorate the egg shells



Prepare your eggshells by using a blunt knife to take off the top third of the shell only, and empty the egg into a bowl to use for cooking. Once the content of the egg has been removed, wash out the eggshell and leave it to dry.

When the eggshell is dry draw a face on it and place it in either an egg box or egg cup.

Wet the cotton wool and squeeze out excess water and place it inside the eggshell. If you are using large eggshells, add more cotton wool. If you don't have cotton wool, you can use a little compost

Sprinkle a good amount of cress seeds onto the wet cotton wool (or damp compost) and place the eggshells in a warm, light place to grow. A window sill is the best place. Leave the cress seeds to germinate and in a few days they will start to grow. They should be quite long within 7-14 days.

Now you are ready to make your garden creature and enter it in the Gardening Club Summer Show Children's Competition! It's FREE to enter and there will be a prize for everyone. Plus there will be special prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the show.

ENTRIES for the show will be accepted from 9.30 am - 11 am. JUDGING begins at 11.15 am. The show opens for public viewing from 2 pm - 3.30 pm.

For further information, please contact Susie Chapman, 07800 888978. Rockland Parish Room

Dates for the Diary

We have identified events in **GREEN** that parents/carers are invited to
Events in **RED** have been recently added

Weekly

- Every Tuesday (ongoing) – **Snug as a Bug at the Margaret Mack Hall (morning sessions – all welcome to pop in)**

July

- **Monday 6th July** – Whitlingham visit – years 3 & 4
- **Monday 6th July** – Beach trip for Reception, years 1 & 2
- **Wednesday 8th July** – KS2 School Play evening performance @ 5.15pm
- **Thursday 9th July** – KS2 School Play afternoon performance @ 2pm
- **Friday 10th July** – Eco Day
- **Monday 13th July** – Move up morning
- **Monday 13th July** – Year 6 FEHS 1st transition day
- **Tuesday 14th July** – Year 6 FEHS 2nd transition day
- **Tuesday 14th July** – FEHS uniform event 3.30 to 4.30pm
- **Wednesday 15th July** – Pleasurewood Hills trip for year 6
- **Wednesday 15th July** – Castle Museum Egyptian Experience – years 3, 4 & 5
- **Wednesday 15th July** – Nursery Graduation 11am
- **Thursday 16th July** – Y6 Leavers' service @ 10.45am
- **Thursday 16th July** - FORMS end of year disco
- **Friday 17th July** – last day of Summer term
- **Summer Holidays** – 18th July to 2nd Sept – children return to school on Thursday 3rd September

Please be aware that the October half term 2026 will be two weeks long: 19th to 30th October 2026

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Amanda Addison

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