Rockland St Mary Primary School & Nursery

NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th October

The highlight of my week was our Harvest Festival at the church. There is something very special about our school and the strong connection we have with our local community, traditions and history. Events like these remind us of the importance of coming together and celebrating what makes our village school so unique.
It was an absolute pleasure to watch the children perform their songs, share their work and demonstrate such confidence and enthusiasm. A huge thank you to all the parents, family members and friends who attended and helped make the occasion so memorable. Your support means so much to the children and staff.

Harvest Festival Celebration

We had a fantastic Harvest Festival celebration in the church this week. The children impressed us all with their singing, proudly shared their beautiful artwork, and Kingfishers spoke confidently about their Geography learning. It was particularly special to see our youngest pupils taking part and performing their song in the church.





A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us to celebrate. It was wonderful to see so many families there, helping to make the occasion such a special community event. We are very proud of all the children and the way they represented our school. What a lovely morning it was!
🌾🍂😊





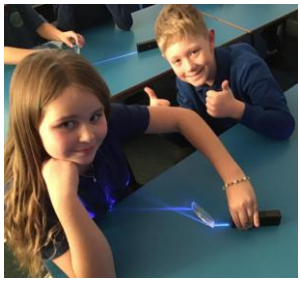


Rockland St Mary Primary School | Facebook

ATTENDANCE

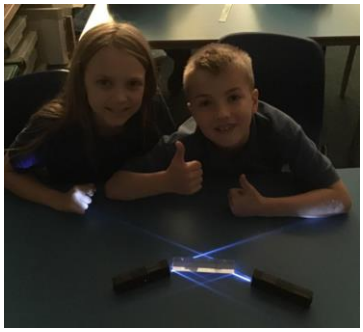
Our school target for attendance this year is **97%.**
This week our attendance was **96.7%**

Kingfisher Class Science

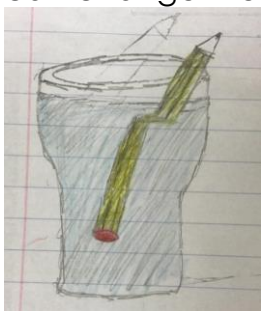


Kingfishers have been continuing their learning about light in Science this week. They explored how light is refracted when it travels through different materials, investigating what happens to a pencil placed in water and observing an arrow through a glass of water.





The children then experimented with shining light through a range of acrylic blocks, discovering how different shapes can change the direction of light rays. Kingfishers were fascinated by their findings and showed great curiosity as they explored and discussed what they observed. It was wonderful to see so much scientific thinking and excitement in action! 🔦✨





SENCO Update

Mrs Burford will be leaving as SENCO after half term. We would like to thank her for everything she has done for our children and families. She is an extremely knowledgeable SENCO, and the support she has provided has made a significant difference to many of our children with SEND. Mrs Burford will continue to work across both schools for a short period after half term, with her final working day being 12th November. She remains in the Trust and has offered to remain in close contact.

We are delighted that Mrs Bolton will be taking on the SENCO role alongside her position as Deputy Headteacher at Rockland.

We understand how important continuity and strong relationships are for our children with SEND and their families. Please be reassured that there will be a thorough handover between Mrs Burford and Mrs Bolton, ensuring that every child's needs, provision and next steps are discussed in detail. We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible, with no disruption to the support our children receive.

Many of you already know Mrs Bolton well through her leadership role within the school. She is an experienced and highly skilled teacher who knows our children, families and school community exceptionally well. She is passionate about inclusion and is fully committed to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive.

Dates for the Diary

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

Autumn Term 2026

October

- **Monday 19th October – 30th October –** Half Term (Please be aware that the October half term 2026 will be two weeks long)
- **24th October –** 1st November – scarecrow trail
- **Friday 30th October –** FORMS café
- **Saturday 31st October –** FORMS café

Otters swimming on Wednesdays - 4th November to 16th December
Kingfisher girls – yoga & mindfulness sessions Thursdays 5th November to 10th December

November

- **Monday 2nd November** – children return to school
- **Tuesday 3rd November** – parent phonics evening Butterflies/Dragonflies
- **Thursday 5 November –** Tempest Individual photos @ 1.15pm
- **Thursday 5 November –** year 6 playleader training
- **Monday 9 November –** flu vaccines Reception to year 6
- **Wednesday 18th November –** cross country qualifier selected KS2 children

December

- **Thursday 3 December –** Year 6 NCMP and Reception Vision & Hearing Screening
- **w/c 7 December –** Parents' Evenings
- **Thursday 10 December –** Maths Cafe
- **Friday 11 December –** Hippodrome Trip
- **Monday 14 December –** Nativity (afternoon)
- **Tuesday 15 December –** Evening Nativity
- **Wednesday 16 December –** Christmas Jumper Day
- **Wednesday 16 December –** Santa Dash
- **Wednesday 16 December –** Christmas Lunch
- **Thursday 17 December –** Carol Service (10am)
- **Friday 18 December – Kingfishers Tender healthy relationships drop down day**
- **Friday 18 December –** FORMS Cake Sale
- **Monday 21 December – 4th January -** Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2027

January

- **Tuesday 5th January** – children return to school
- **w/c 18 January –** SEN Parent Meetings
- **Monday 18 January –** Crucial Crew Trip (Year 6)

February

- **Week of 1 February –** Children's Mental Health Week
- **Friday 12 February –** FORMS Cake Sale
- **Monday 15 - Friday 19 February** – Half Term
- **Monday 22nd February** – children return to school after half term

March

- **Thursday 4 March –** Reading Cafe for World Book Day
- **w/c 15 March –** Parents' Evenings
- **Friday 19 March –** Parent Forum
- **23– 25 March** – Y5 and 6 Residential
- **Friday 26 March – Friday 9th April 2027** – Easter Holiday

Summer Term 2027

April

- Monday 12th April – children return to school
- **w/c 26 April –** SEN Parent Meetings
- **Monday 28th June –** Sports Day

July

- **Friday 2 July –** Parent Forum
- **Week of 12 July –** Reports sent home
- **Monday 19 July –** Year 6 Pleasurewood Hills Trip
- **Tuesday 20 July –** End of Year Party
- **Wednesday 21 July –** Leaving Service (11am)
- **Thursday 22nd July –** Final day of the Summer Term

OCTOBER HALF TERM WOODLAND DISCOVERY SESSIONS

THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER
9:30 - 11:30 AM & 1 - 3 PM

Explore a self-led walk with a leaf hunt and wildlife list to spot

Become a woodland detective by learning what trees are around you

Make your own bug house to take home



Get stuck in finding minibeasts



Enjoy autumn crafts with leaf printing & wax rubbings in the woodland



Wheatfen Nature Reserve
The Covey, Surlingham
NR14 7AL

Tickets available on our website
Children free - Adults £2.50
Adult supervision required

WHEATFEN NATURE RESERVE

FAMILY WOODLAND DISCOVERY



Enjoy autumn learning and creativity with craft stations, nature spotting, and minibeast exploration for young adventurers in our peaceful woodland space

Thursday 29th October
9:30 - 11:30 am
1 - 3 pm

Under 16s free - Adults £2.50
Adult supervision required

Wheatfen Nature Reserve
The Covey, Surlingham
NR14 7AL

Tickets available on our website
www.wheatfen.org

WHEATFEN NATURE RESERVE


ROCKLAND ST MARY
SCARECROW TRAIL 2026
'DANGER THEMED'
OCTOBER HALF-TERM
We are back !
£5 Entry
£50 voucher of choice for the Best Scarecrow
JOIN US FOR OUR 'DANGER' THEMED
ROCKLAND ST MARY SCARECROW TRAIL THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM
FROM SAT 24TH OCTOBER - SUN 1ST NOVEMBER.
YOU CAN MAKE ANY SCARECROW AS LONG AS IT IS TO DO WITH 'DANGER'...
'ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE FRIENDS OF ROCKLAND ST MARY SCHOOL'
ONCE WE RECEIVE YOUR APPLICATION AND ENTRANCE FEE, WE WILL SEND YOUR CONFIRMATION
AND AN ENTRY NUMBER TO DISPLAY ON YOUR SCARECROW.
EMAIL FRIENDSOFRSMS@GMAIL.COM FOR ENTRY FORM OR SCAN QR CODE BELOW TO FILL OUT ENTRY FORM
SCARECROWS:
* MUST BE VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD
*DO NOT HAVE TO BE MADE OF STRAW.
* MUST HAVE THEIR ENTRY NUMBER ON DISPLAY AT ALL TIMES
* MUST BE VISIBLE FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE COMPETITION
ENTRIES MUST BE IN BY THE 12TH OCTOBER 2026 IN ORDER TO BE PUT ON THE MAP.
THE WINNING SCARECROW WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE AMOUNT OF 'LIKES'
IT RECEIVES ON THE FORMS EVENTS PAGE BY SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2026 AT 8PM
WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR AVAILABLE PLOTS FOR SCARECROWS
TO BE PLACED ON FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO
ENTER THE COMPETITION BUT DO NOT LIVE IN THE VILLAGE.
PLEASE LET US KNOW BY EMAIL FRIENDSOFRSMS@GMAIL.COM
LINK TO ENTRY FORM
TNT
Kindly Sponsored By
Winkworth
Friends of Rockland St Mary School (Registered Charity 1109683)

SNUG AS A BUG
NURTURING FAMILIES
BIRTH TO 5YRS OLD
STAY & PLAY CAFE
TUESDAYS 8.45-11.00

22/9/26	Peepo Here's a little baby 123
29/10/26	Autumn Days
6/10/26	Owl Babies
13/10/26	We're going on a bear hunt
20/10/26	Witches cats & potions
3/11/26	Zoom Fizz Whizz Bang
10/11/26	Diwali Festival of Light
17/11/26	Stick man
24/11/26	Follow the Star
1/12/26	That's not my Christmas Tree
8/12/26	The Nativity Story
15/12/26	North Pole Christmas Party

Margaret Mack
School Lane
Rockland St Mary

Contact
Jeni Barnacle
snugasabug.norfolk@gmail.com
m: 07771600892


BENJAMIN LAKE AND THE YARE VILLAGE VOICES AT CHRISTMAS
A spectacular festive performance with international solo artist Benjamin Lake with proceeds going towards the repair of the church tower.
THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2026 AT 7PM
Tickets £10 Cash on the Door.
Includes Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.
ST. MARY'S, SURLINGHAM
NORWICH, NR14 7DF
@yarevillagevoices