

Friday 18th September

There were lots of big smiles at Rockland this week – it has been a real pleasure to see how much the children have been enjoying their learning. Especially Otters class who were very happy to tell me that they have been tasting CHOCOLATE in their science lessons! We have had our first school council meeting and our new school councillors are taking their roles very seriously and have some good ideas for helping others in the school. Finally, a great visit from Will Mack the farmer generated lots of great questions from the children about farming, running a business and our local area.

Chocolate!

Otters had such a fun afternoon with... chocolate!

In science, we are learning about the states of matter. Today, we did an experiment to understand how melting is the process where a solid becomes a liquid.



The children measured the temperature of the palm of their hands and then held a chocolate button in each hand. One hand we closed shut and the other we kept open.

We then waited 3 minutes to see what happened to both of the buttons... it was super fun and messy!



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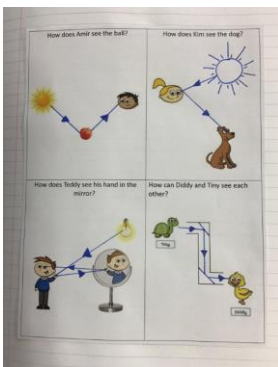
ATTENDANCE

Our school target for attendance this year is **97%**.

This week our attendance was **93.6%**

Light

In Science, Kingfishers have been exploring how light travels. They made their own periscopes using mirrors and saw first-hand how light is reflected, enabling them to see objects through the periscope. There were plenty of delighted "It really works!" moments as the children put their investigations to the test. ✨👁️



🏆 School Games Gold Award 🏆

We are delighted to share that Rockland Primary School has been awarded the School Games Gold Award. This national recognition celebrates schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to sport, physical activity and competitive opportunities for children. The award reflects the hard work of our staff and pupils in promoting an active, healthy lifestyle and ensuring that all children can take part, develop their skills and enjoy being active. Well done to everyone involved in this fantastic achievement! ★👁️



🌱 Learning About Climate Change on the Farm 🌱

Yesterday, we welcomed **Will Mack from Yare Valley Farm** to talk to the children about the impact of climate change on farming. He shared a range of crops to demonstrate the effects of too much and too little water and explained how changing weather patterns have caused challenges for farmers, with many crops failing this year. The children were fascinated to learn that the farm is now trialling sweet potatoes as warmer conditions make it possible to grow different crops locally. Thank you, Will, for



such an interesting and informative visit! 🚗 😊 🧑

A Reminder About Safe Access to School

As we continue to enjoy a positive start to the new school year, we would like to remind families about safe access arrangements at the beginning and end of the school day.

School Lane can become particularly busy during drop-off and collection times. As there is no designated pedestrian pathway, the lane is shared by families walking to school, local residents, agricultural vehicles, delivery drivers and other road users.

To help keep everyone safe, we kindly ask parents and carers not to drive or park along School Lane when dropping off or collecting children. Where possible, please use the designated parking areas and walk the remainder of the route to school.

We appreciate that this can sometimes be less convenient, particularly during poor weather, but these arrangements help to reduce congestion and create a safer environment for our children, families and neighbours.

We are incredibly fortunate to be part of such a supportive village community, and we are grateful for the consideration shown by the vast majority of families. We ask everyone to continue being mindful of local residents, driveways and other road users when travelling to and from school.

The safety of our children is always our highest priority, and we thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe, welcoming and respectful environment for all.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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

- **Tuesday 13 October** – Harvest Festival (am)
- **Friday 16 October** – FORMS Cake Sale
- **Monday 19th October – 30th October** – Half Term (Please be aware that the October half term 2026 will be two weeks long)

November

- **Monday 2nd November** – children return to school
- **Thursday 5 November** – Tempest Individual photos @ 1.15pm

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 (am)
- **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
- **22– 24 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

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