



RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

May 2019: Issue 8

I hope you have all had a wonderful May bank holiday weekend and to our year 5 parents, who have just waved their children off to Pendarren, I hope you enjoy having a quieter household for the next 4 days.

Each year, the children in Years 5 and 6 have the most wonderful opportunity to spend time away on their school journey; 180 children experience the great outdoors and adventurous activities in Pendarren and at a PGL Centre. It is at this time, as parents, you realise just how much your children have grown. The confidence and courage they show when tackling new challenges should be commended.

We are now already half way through this half term and will soon be entering the final half term of the school year. We will be saying goodbye to our Year 6 children and welcoming our new Nursery and Reception families.

As a school you are always looking ahead, planning forward and setting objectives but it is equally important to sit back and reflect. Seeking the views of staff, parents and pupils forms part of this reflection and will help to develop the school further. This week the children (Years 3-6) will complete a pupil survey and you will also be sent a link to our annual parent survey. Please take the time to share your thoughts of the school curriculum, teaching, leadership, home learning and the schools wider offer. The survey follows the Ofsted style questionnaire and enables us to make direct comparisons year on year and against other schools locally and nationally.

Our school value for this half term is *ambition* before exploring *sharing* after the half term break. The children have been truly motivated about the schools ambition to become a disposable plastic free school and our pledge to support our environment. Thank you to parents for supporting the non-disposable use of plastics. We have groups of children in Year 2 organising their own litter picks and recycling centers. It is the will of Rhodes Avenue to create a world we are happy to share with others, a world that is considerate and thoughtful.



If you would like to help our wider community FARGG have organised a park litter pick on Thursday at 3.45pm; please show your support by giving some of your time.



Pendarren 2019 (Group 1)



2 weeks ago, 1 third of Year 5 went to Pendarren and I think I can say this for everyone, we all enjoyed it a lot (wait, before you start reading or think I'm going to skip this section of the newsletter I promise this will be the most exciting and thrilling section you have ever read).

We all had to wake early as the coach left at 7.30am and we had to arrive at school for 7. We waved our parents off with tears streaming down faces and puddles covering the floor— of the parents not the children - we were all far too excited.

The children cheered as we turned the country lane to the hostel. We were shown around and met our instructors: Luke, Sean and Steve. Our first activity was a three mile walk, to stretch our legs, with *very few* complaints. After a 'full night's sleep' we set off on our river walk and canoeing activities. We had so much fun racing and singing; we were soaked after a splash battle where a few children even fell in (including me). After a quick shower we had lunch and set off to bush craft of shelter building and fire making. We toasted marshmallows and had warm hot chocolate before a game of Murder Mystery.

Having the chance to explore the Welsh country side was amazing. We were taught about sandstone and limestone and how the rock layers helped to filter water. We explored the river source and saw a magical stone before settling off to explore the deep, dark caves – **dun, dun, dunnnn**. The caves were indeed very dark and very wet. The stones illuminated when we turned our lights off, which was pretty cool. We had to follow the guide line and drop into a hole before completing loads of different challenges. We then reached the waterfall and was able to slide down the rocks into the shallows below. The water was really cold but we had so much fun! Ms Tickell even had a go.



We had the best time in Wales, despite the rain and cold, it was brilliant.

Albert (5CN)



Should I buy my child a phone?

This is a question I have been asked by so many parents of children in Years 5 and 6. I would like to say I have the definitive answer but all I can offer is my opinion.

I honestly don't think that a ten-year-old is ready to have a phone. The responsibility and maturity level just isn't where it should be. As a school we deal with cases of social media fallout and pupils misuse of media platforms because of a lack of understanding.

Quite honestly, I have no idea what age is the "right" age and just like everything else with children, it will depend on each child and each situation.

Celebrating Success

Congratulations Robbie, who has been selected to play for the England indoor cricket performance squad.

He attended his first training session, in Birmingham, this weekend and is training for the Under 13's indoor World Cup in South African.

Well done Robbie we are all very proud.

We really love hearing about success and achievements so please do share your proud moments with us.



A note from RAPSA

Thank you to all of you that helped make our Spring Fair as enjoyable as it was. Despite many not being able to attend, we raised a fantastic £2,422 which is down to your rota-filling, face painting, baking, riddle-making and attending, so a terrific effort all round. A special mention goes to the Reception and Year 1 Reps for all their hard work and superb organisation. It was a great team effort, and really showed.

The kids' disco was also a huge success. Thank you to all helpers and teachers who made it possible. We had a record breaking number of children (around 430!) dazzle with their moves and we raised over £2,000 with our new JustGiving initiative.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/RhodesAvenueSchool>

We know, from parent feedback, that not everyone has the time to bake, volunteer or come to our fundraising events, so we've set up this page as an alternative way to support the school. You can either make a donation via the link or involve your child and create your own fundraising page to support our school - every little bit helps..!

Our upcoming Rapsa dates for your diaries this term are:

- the Spring Jumble Sale on Saturday, 11th May;
- Comedy Night on the evening of Friday, 17th May; and
- Fun Day on Sunday 30th June.

The Comedy Night looks to be a great night with West End comedians performing for 1 Night Only at our school, so book your babysitters and join us for a great night out on your doorstep. Tickets are available via PayPal, by emailing rapsa@hotmail.co.uk or eventbrite -

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rhodes-avenue-comedy-night-tickets-59911191988?utm_campaign=new_event_email&utm_medium=email&utm_term=eventurl_text

In the meantime, keep up to date on all matters Rapsa via

https://www.instagram.com/rapsa_rhodes and <https://mobile.twitter.com/RapsaRhodes>

Here's to a fun Summer Term,
Your Rapsa Team

Attendance

What does my child's attendance figure tell me?

Attendance during school year	Equates to days absent	Which is approximately
94%	10 Days	2 Weeks
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks

If you would like to discuss any attendance concerns or difficulties please contact Joanne Tillson in the school office.



What's happening in the art room?

Year 3 – Famous Landmark Collages



Year 2 – Amazing Insects



Take One Picture in Year 4



Art for Adults



PGL by the coast

Our Year 6 children had the opportunity to visit PGL Bawdsey Manor. It is a remarkable site, sitting in 144 acres of parkland and woodland and directly on the Suffolk coastline. The children had a fantastic time completing all sorts of different activities ranging from rock climbing and trapeze to aero ball and the giant swing. After a busy day they had a chance to explore the grounds and had evening entertainment too with various games and entertainment. It was a great experience for the children to grow and learn.



Year 6 team.

All school dates are available on our school website:

<http://rhodesavenue.school/news-events/diary-dates/>

The school term dates are also available for the next two years. Please be aware of term dates when booking holidays as leave from school will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

<http://rhodesavenue.school/news-events/term-dates/>

Adrian Hall
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