



Rugby Free

Primary School

★ Together we learn, together we shine! ★

Newsletter 21

Friday 13th February
2026

World Book Day

As part of our mission to promote and engage children in reading, RFPS will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March**.

As part of our celebration, we would like to invite the children to come into school dressed up as their favourite book character.

We continue to encourage home-made and low-cost costumes. Below are some fun, easy home-made costume ideas that you and your child could make together.

- The BFG: using paper plates.
- Burglar Bill: using a paper mask.
- Matilda: blue dress and red headband.
- Handa's surprise: carrying a fruit bowl
- Mr Bump: blue t shirt and bandages
- Good night Mr Tom: coat and a flat cap
- Harry and his bucket full of dinosaurs: blue t shirt and carrying a bucket of dinosaurs
- Snow White: blue headband and carrying an apple



Please note that it is not compulsory for your child to dress up if they do not wish to. Non-uniform is also allowed.

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day on the **7th of March!**

Year 5 Inspire Workshop

Year 5 were proud to open doors for our recent Inspire welcoming parents, carers to see their learning in children shared a range of across the curriculum and spoke confidently about the topics they have been exploring. Highlights included demonstrating plate tectonics using biscuits (thankfully the only natural disasters were a few crumbs on the carpet!) and performing chords on the ukuleles to showcase their growing musical talents. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and pride in their work. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the children — your encouragement makes a real difference!



their classroom Workshop, grandparents and action. The activities from



Happy Chinese New Year!

We wish all families celebrating a prosperous, healthy, and joyous Year of the Horse. May the new year bring you luck, love, and endless blessings.



Stars of the Week

Reception

Giraffes
All Children
Zebras
All Children

Year One

Hedgehogs
Ella
Rabbits
Brooke

Year Two

Penguins
Sebi
Seals
Gian & Matthias

Year Three

Crocodiles
Jackson
Turtles
Abdoulie

Year Four

Bears
Jacob
Eagles
Darshan

Year Five

Pandas
Tessa D
Tigers
Izzy

Year Six

Sloths
Isaac
Toucans
Harman



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Year 1

Year 1 took on the role of teachers this week as they shared their learning about famous London landmarks with our Reception children. After researching Buckingham Palace, London Eye and Big Ben, the children wrote their own information texts full of interesting facts. They then used their work to teach Reception all about these iconic sights, confidently explaining what makes each landmark special. It was wonderful to see the Year 1 pupils so proud of their writing and speaking skills, and the Reception children loved learning lots of fun new facts about London!



Year 1

This week Year 1 had a visit from the Fire Service. They showed us their safety uniform that helps to keep them safe. They also taught us about the importance of our adults at home testing our smoke alarms and using the 'stop, drop, roll' technique to keep us safe. We also learnt about what to do during a fire.



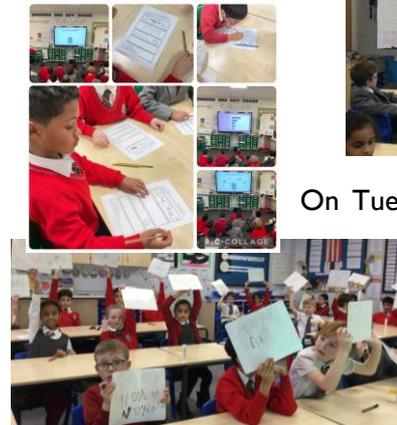
Boys Football

The boys put in a fantastic performance at the recent football tournament, playing four matches in total and winning three of them. Despite a tough 2-0 defeat to Hilmorton, the team showed great resilience and bounced back brilliantly in their other games. They secured two impressive wins against two Bilton teams, first with a confident 4-1 victory and then edging a thrilling 3-2 contest. The highlight of the tournament was an exciting 5-4 win against Long Lawford in a real end-to-end game that kept everyone on the edge of their seats! The boys demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout and represented the school superbly. We are very proud of them.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 10th February it was Safer Internet Day in school and this year the focus was 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. The children spent time during the day thinking about what AI was and its benefits and limitations. They also explored what it felt like in their bodies when they used too much technology and gave advice to children who were having problems with AI. The Digital Leaders made and then led a quiz in their classrooms looking at whether a photograph was real or AI created - they were amazing and we are super proud of them!!



Year 3 & 4

On Tuesday, our Year 3 & 4 children enjoyed an exciting cross country taster event where they had the opportunity to run alongside pupils from other schools. It was a fantastic introduction to competitive running, and the children showed great courage in taking on a longer course than they are used to. They demonstrated brilliant determination, kept going even when it got tough, and supported their teammates every step of the way. The event was a wonderful chance to build confidence, experience friendly competition and most importantly, have fun while being active. Well done to everyone who took part!



Year 5 visit from local firefighters

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic visit from our local firefighters this week. The children learned about fire safety, including the importance of smoke alarms, having an escape plan and knowing how to respond in an emergency. They also discovered more about the wide range of work firefighters do, from tackling fires to helping at road accidents, floods and even trapped animals. Thank you to our local fire service for an informative and inspiring session — and well done to Year 5 for their excellent questions and behaviour!





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Vacancy

Join our team!

We have a vacancy for a **Teaching Assistant** at RFPS. Please follow the details and the application form:



and **Learning** link below for

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/141936/EDV-2026-RFPS-40794>

Preparation For STEM Week – plea for recycling



Years 1 & 6 are in need of cardboard boxes/materials for STEM week. Examples of what we are looking for are items such as egg, shoe, cereal and tissue boxes etc.

Y4 are also in need of plastic bags. If you have any of these that you are able to donate to school, we would really appreciate it. Thank you!

Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr

Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr are approaching. We are encouraging the children to write a poem in any style about Ramadan or Eid ul-Fitr, if they wish to.

All entries should be sent to Mrs Hammond by Friday 13th March. All poets will receive a prize.



Some ideas are

- Acrostic Poems: Children use the word "RAMADAN" or "EID UL-FITR" to start each line.
- Shape Poems: Children write their poem in the silhouette of a crescent moon, a lantern or a mosque.



We look forward to sharing the poems in our classrooms.



Safe & Active Schools

We are pleased to share that due to all of our school community's hard work in achieving our platinum award for Safe and Active Schools 2024-25, we were awarded with some prizes. The Road Safety team have kindly given us a set of 20 pedometers to encourage and record being active; a cuddly road safety mascot and a micro-scooter with helmet for our Year 1 outdoor area.

What an exciting week! Let's keep this up and maintain that platinum award. Thank you everyone!



Friends of Rugby Free Primary School (PTA)

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Friendship discos on Wednesday, it was lovely to see so many smiling faces.

Easy FundRaising QR Code-



Easy Fundraising is an easy way to help us fundraise for our school while doing your shopping and is at no extra cost to you. Follow the QR link for more information.



World Book Day Donations -

We are looking for donations of good condition books for our 'new to you' book sale Please bring any books to school the week commencing 23rd February. Thank you. During our book sale children will be able to come and choose a book new to them for a donation of 50p.



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All Sorts Magazine

Here is the link to the Jan/March digital edition of Allsorts magazine

https://bit.ly/ALLSORTS-MAG_JANMARCH

you can tap straight to advertisers' websites' when viewing the mag on your phone/tablet (please mention allsorts). There are lots of attractions to visit, services and clubs/classes to help your family. You can view this issue at www.allsortsmag.com too or on the allsorts Facebook page.

Take care - Michelle Love (Editor)

Game On Holiday Camp



Game On is operating a Holiday Camp over the February Half term. The booking form was attached with the newsletter on 16th January. Please liaise with Mr Sheehan directly for bookings.

The dates are: **Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026.**

Diary Dates (please check every week as they are subject to change!)

16th – 20th Feb – Half term

24th Feb – Y2 Inspire workshop 9am-10am

26th-27th Feb – Y4 Residential trip

2nd and 3rd Mar – Parents evening Y1 – Y6 (booking now open via MCAS)

3rd and 4th Mar – Parents evening Rec (booking now open via MCAS)

4th Mar – Class photos

5th Mar – World Book Day (dress up as a character inspired by a book or non-uniform)

10th Mar – Reception Inspire workshop 9am-10am

10th Mar – Y2 Warwick Castle trip

20th Mar – Rec Farm trip

25th Mar – Y6 Beaumanor Hall trip

30th Mar – 10th Apr – Easter Holiday

30th April - Y3 Hunstanton trip

Safeguarding

If you are concerned that a child appears unhappy or is being abused act now using the contact numbers provided below or alternatively come in to school and ask to speak to a DSL. Contact the **Warwickshire's Family Connect** on **01926 414144**. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8am-5.30pm, Friday 8.30am- 5.00pm.

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the **Emergency Duty Team** immediately on **01926 886922**. If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately by dialling **999**.

SAFEGUARDING
Safeguarding our children is everyone's responsibility

If worried about any child being a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty whilst at RFPS, you must tell Miss Finch or, in her absence, one of her safeguarding team.

	Miss Finch Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Mrs Colledge Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Mrs Polhill Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Miss Briffers Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Mrs Screen Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Jennifer Beattie
Trustee for Child Protection & Safeguarding

If you consider a child is in immediate danger phone the Police on 999 or phone Family Connect on 01926 414144 or out of hours on 01926 886922.

Workshops and drop in sessions with the Warwickshire Children with Disabilities Team

Parents and carers are invited to join Family Support Workers from the Children with Disabilities Team for relaxed and friendly workshops to explore how visual communication aids (e.g. visual schedules, now and next boards) can support children and young people at home and in the community. Drop in sessions are also available for an informal chat on SEND & the services that offer support to children & their families.

[Warwickshire Children with Disabilities Team Family Support Workers Events - 7 Upcoming Activities and](#)



Communication workshop for parents and carers

Visual Timetables, Now & Next Boards & Social Stories

Date: 11th February 2026

Time: 09:30 – 11:30

Location: The Griffin Primary School Lower Lodge Avenue RUGBY CV21 1N

Join us for a relaxed and friendly session where we'll explore how visual communication aids can support children and young people at home and in the community.

Whether you're new to visual supports or looking for fresh ideas, come along for an informal chat, practical tips, and helpful resources.

You can book on [Eventbrite](#)

For more information contact CwdAssessmenthub@warwickshire.gov.uk



Resilience Collaboration Curiosity Respect Kindness Endeavour



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent i.e. the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued



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in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

All penalty notices are issued by Warwickshire County Council and all fines are paid directly to WCC. The school does not receive any of the money.