



Rugby Free

Primary School



Together we learn, together we shine!



Newsletter 1

Friday 4th September
2026



Welcome back!

I would like to extend a huge welcome to all of our new families to RFPS and an equally big welcome back to our families who are returning for another academic year! I hope you all had a lovely summer and managed some family time although I know the summers can be a juggle as well with the children being at home and work not stopping! At least we had plenty of sunshine!

Lots of work happened during the summer at RFPS such as painting, new carpets, new blinds, scooter rack and landscaping work. We have also had lots of new outdoor furniture such as a Reading shed (thank you to Mr Rumsey for building this!) and Y1 outdoor furniture (thank you to Mr Coburn for building this!). Mr Mcpherson (our premises officer) has also been working incredibly hard making

sure the school is well maintained and ready for all of the children to come back!

We have been inundated with uniform orders and requests and need a little patience to allow us to deal with these orders as we've had so many! We are placing another order next week with our uniform providers as we have sold a lot more uniform than we were anticipating. The new and more cost-effective jumpers and cardigans are proving popular with the children and a lot of them saying how comfy they are! We still have the old-style jumpers for sale at half price too. We have seen several children in trainers this week rather than school shoes. **Please make sure children wear school shoes only on non-PE days.** For those who have questions about our uniform, our uniform policy is on our website and hopefully explains everything, but a quick reminder is below.

The staff all came back on Tuesday and Wednesday this week and had a lot of training! We covered our vision, values and expectations, reminders regarding our behaviour and relationships policy and practice, safeguarding training. We also had training on OPAL (see below) and Creativity in teaching.

Our whole school priorities this year are:

1. **All pupils make great progress through excellent and engaging teaching and learning.**
2. **All pupils learn to be great citizens through a strong citizenship and PSHE curriculum**
3. **All pupils have access to creative and engaging experiences including high-quality play provision**
4. **Leadership at all levels ensures RFPS is the best school it possibly can be and drives improvement**



We hope that this year (our 12th year!) is going to be the best yet!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Rebecca Butters
Headteacher

Stars of the Week



All of the children for having such a positive two days back at school and all of the staff for their hard work over the holidays and this week!





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OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

As you may have noticed, our main playgrounds are starting to look a little different! This is because we are about to launch our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) improvement journey! We want to make playtime and lunchtime much more exciting, active and engaging for the children, which we hope will improve behaviour but most importantly, allow the children to express their creativity and love playtimes! The children spend approximately 5 hours a day outside and so we want to make sure they get the most from this time.

The play team have worked incredibly hard over the summer (with some help from some lovely volunteers) to get to this stage. Mr Mcpherson has built us a huge sandpit and created a space for a huge mud kitchen. There are lots of different areas such as a role play area, small world area, transport area, reading corner, art station etc. We would like to thank Horiba Mira Ltd, who are based in Nuneaton, for their kind donation and delivery of the tyres we have too!

We will gradually be adding more to our OPAL provision over the next years as this is a 2 year improvement programme and have had funding donations from the Friends of RFPS (PTA) and the Trust for us to buy further equipment. Staff have had basic OPAL training but will have further training later in the Autumn term to be able to introduce play with managed risks such as play with large parts (tyres, pallets, tubes ropes etc).

The children will have an assembly on OPAL on Monday and then will explore the areas with their teachers and then it will be available to them from Wednesday onwards (they are desperate to play with everything!!).



What do we need from parents to help us with OPAL?

- **Please can you make sure that your children (including younger children) do not play with resources or go into the areas such as mud kitchen, whilst waiting on the playground at the end of the day.**
- **Please make sure your child has a waterproof coat in school with a hood (so they can stay dry and warm and so it can be easily cleaned!). OPAL is about being outside whatever the weather!**
- **Any donations of children's wellies (size 10 – to small adult sizes e.g. adult 7) so that children can wear these in the mud kitchen.**
- **Any donations of items for a sand pit, mud kitchen (pots pans utensils), any dolls or role play items e.g. kitchen items/plastic food etc, any dressing up clothes (best are things such as hats, shirts, waistcoats, skirts etc), reading books, art materials, ribbon, vehicles, lego/building blocks.**

We will have an OPAL in Progress part of the newsletter each week to show you what the children have been up to!

Thank you very much for your support, we are very excited by this development to our school!

Mrs Hammond, Miss Ede and Mrs Wesley (OPAL play team)

Uniform expectations

Just a reminder:

- Grey school trousers, shirt, dress, shorts.
- White polo shirt or normal shirt
- Red jumper or cardigan
- Red or grey tights/grey or white socks
- Black school shoes or black ankle boots
- Red RFPS rucksack
- (Tie and Blazer are optional)
- PE uniform is PLAIN black joggers/shorts and hoodie, white polo shirt, ideally black or white trainers.

PE days!

All pupils come to school in their PE kits on these days for the Autumn term below:

Reception: Thursday
Y1: Monday & Thursday
Y2: Tuesday & Wednesday
Y3: Wednesday & Friday
Y4: Tuesday & Thursday
Y5: Monday & Thursday
Y6: Tuesday (swimming) & Friday

Resilience Collaboration Curiosity Respect Kindness Endeavour



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

21st Sept – 25th Sept – Y6 Residential

22nd Sept – Friends of RFPS Meeting – Brownsover Hall - 7.30pm (see below)

25th Sept – Macmillan Coffee morning in the school hall hosted by Friends of RFPS – 9am – 10am

12th & 13th Oct - Parents evenings (more information to follow)

16th Oct – Flu Vaccinations (information will be sent out at a later date)

22nd Oct – Individual and Sibling School photos

23rd Oct - Inset Day

26th – 30th Oct – Half Term

19th Nov – Y5 London trip

20th Nov – Inset Day

21st Dec – 1st Jan – Christmas Holiday

4th Jan – Inset day

6th Jan – Young Voices

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.

shout
85258

NHS
Coventry and
Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust



Text 'CWHOPE' to 85258

Free, confidential, 24/7 text support
provided by Shout

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 Poole
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Butters
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.



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Friends of RFPS

Friends of Rugby Free Primary School

WELCOME BACK

We hope you all had a wonderful Summer break. We are looking forward to bringing you new and much loved events over this year – some are happening in just a few weeks!!

We hope all those starting in reception enjoyed their first days too.

Our next meeting
22nd September,
7:30pm
Brownsover Hall
All Welcome

MacMillan Coffee Morning -
Friday 25th September,
9-10am
Free to come along -
donations to MacMillan
Bring family, friends, neighbours

Also coming up soon-
-Christmas card designs,
-Family Beetle Drive
-KS2 Spooky Disco