



Rowner Junior School

Newsletter 5 - January 2023

Charlie K, was one of two winners in a competition for PCD support UK, where he wrote about his condition and the impact it has on his life. Your determination and resilience absolutely shone through in your writing. Well done to our Field Gun Crew who took part in their first competition at Portsmouth Dockyard. The Team RJS spirit and determination shone through on the day and they even managed to take 3 minutes off their personal best timings and were the only crew with no penalty points.

DATES FOR January: The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change	
YEAR GROUP SPECIFIC INFORMATION Please note that year groups will only have one PE session wc 3rd January. The days are below. Year 3: Tuesday 3rd January Year 4: Friday 6th January Year 5: Thursday 5th January Year 6: Wednesday 4th January	
Year 3 - Miss Dymond and Miss Finn	Tuesday and Friday Children are to wear their PE kit into school on the PE day.
Year 4 - Miss Pollet and Miss Winzar	Monday and Friday Children are to wear their PE kit into school on the PE day.
Year 5 - Mr Corlett and Miss Daly	Monday and Wednesday Children are to wear their PE kit into school on the PE day.
Year 6 - Mrs Southern and Mrs Walton	Tuesday and Wednesday Children are to wear their PE kit into school on the PE day.
Key dates for January	
Tuesday 3rd January	Spring Term starts - Pupils return to school
Thursday 26th January	Simon James - author visit - please see Google Form here and more information below.
Upcoming dates for February <i>(Please note dates will be added to this list in the next newsletter)</i>	
Friday 10th February	INSET day - School closed to children
Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February	Half term
Monday 20th February	Return to school

Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March	Readathon - More information to follow.
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Happy New Year to you all.

A Very Happy New Year to you all. We do hope that you are all well and are rested after the holiday. We are sure that the children will settle quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day and have the correct uniform for both school and PE.

Attendance

Our most recent Ofsted report outlines that ***'Some pupils do not attend school regularly enough. This affects their learning and well-being. Leaders need to ensure that strategies to improve attendance remain a high priority and that they keep a careful check on their effectiveness.'***

Attendance has always been a key focus of ours at Rowner and Ofsted have outlined that we need to maintain our existing approach. SLT look at attendance on a weekly basis, identifying pupils that are at risk, or run the risk of becoming a persistent absentee (90% or less). This is then followed up by:

1. Letters to parents informing them that their child's attendance is below 90%. This is done half termly. We will be sending out letters in the coming weeks for the second half of the autumn term.
2. Meetings with parents whose child's attendance shows no improvement or remains below 90% over an extended period. At this meeting, we look at the barriers to schooling from the perspective of the child, school and parent. An action plan is then put into place to address the barriers.
3. If attendance does not improve, then the school will make a referral to the Legal Intervention Team, who will work with family and school to improve attendance.

To this end, we have been receiving a lot of absence requests recently. Please note, schools cannot authorise term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. We define exceptional as - rare, significant, unavoidable and short. For service personnel (all services) please provide a letter from your Line Manager/Divisional Officer/Commanding Officer to support any absence request, confirming that no alternative dates are available to you. Please note, we may still not be able to authorise the absence.

Author Visit

We are delighted to be welcoming children's author Simon James Green into school on Thursday 26th January 2023. On the day, children will have the opportunity to listen to the author and to have a book signed. Books will be provided by our local independent bookstore The Book Shop in Lee-on-the-Solent. If you would like your child to have a book signed, you can purchase from the following titles:

Suitable for ages 5-7 years Llama Glamarama - £6.99	Suitable for ages 7-13 years Sleepover Takeover - £6.99	Suitable for ages 7-13 years Life of Riley Beginner's Luck - £6.99
		

Payment can be made in cash (to school) using this [Google form](#) (link also in the dates above too). Or, you can order online at www.leebookshop/positivity-boxes. Please just scroll to your chosen title(s), enter your own address where it states delivery and enter your child's name, school and class in the personalisation or message box. Your order will be delivered direct to school and given to your child on the day of the book signing. Orders should be made no later than by **Friday 13 January 2023** to ensure delivery in time for the event.

After school clubs

After school clubs will begin week commencing 16th January. A google Form will be shared with you this week for your child to sign up to a club if they wish to.

If your child takes part in Dance Live and Lego league, these clubs will continue and your child does not need to reapply for these. Because of this, we will not add them onto the Google Form.

Dance Live will commence again Monday 9th January

Lego League will commence Wednesday 11th January

Award Winning

We told you last month that we made it to the final of the Education Today Awards for the 'Best Use of Technology'. We didn't win that award but are delighted to inform you that the GFM was awarded the Outstanding MAT Award. We're thrilled.



Books for school

Thanks to your thoughtful purchases at the bookfair, we raised an amazing £321.28 to spend on books for the school.

Contact Information

Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers for your child in case of any emergencies. Please contact the school office if you need to update us. Thank you.

Online ordering of lunches - January 2023

We are piloting a new online meal ordering system on Scopay. The online option will be open to all and you will be able to select your child's chosen meal choice, in advance, online. This will not only help to reduce food waste but also help our catering team better plan when ordering. Children's meal choices will be displayed daily in the classroom as a reminder of their choice for that day. Your child will still be able to choose their meal choice on the day in the classroom, should you or your child not wish to order online or you simply forget. Menus will still be emailed and displayed on the website as usual and you simply select the colour meal choice. For pupils who have a packed lunch you can select the 'packed lunch' option.

Friends of Rowner and Parent Partnership - WE NEED YOU!

As staff members and parents/carers have moved on, we find ourselves needing your help. When your child joins the school, you automatically become a member of our Parent Teacher Association. Staff members have kindly continued the work of **Friends of Rowner**. However, if we are to continue providing events, we **need more parents/carers** to support us. You might like to show your support at events such as the Spring Disco or attend Parent Partnership committee meetings.

FRIENDS OF ROWNER

Over the years, the group has worked tirelessly to help raise funds for the school through our school including discos, Christmas Shop and our raffles. In the past the raised funds have enabled the children to participate in whole school trips to the theatre (to see Mary Poppins), Longleat Safari Park, Moors Valley as well as the circus. **Friends of Rowner** look forward to welcoming you.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP The Rowner Junior Parent Partnership was established last academic year. The Partnership will meet once a half-term which will be led by one of our Assistant Head Teachers, Ms Sewell. Each meeting has a clear agenda. If you have items you would like to be discussed at one of the meetings (even if you can not attend as one of our representatives), please share this with the office team or speak to one of the Parent Partnership representatives.

If you are interested in supporting either of these (or both), please email Ms Sewell via enquiries@rowner.gfmat.org

School Uniform

The vast majority of our learners are wearing the correct school uniform. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform, or PE kit on PE days and ensure that sports items with logos are avoided. We have lots of pre-loved items of uniform for any family who is without. Please just let us know. With the darker days ahead of us, we also encourage children to have an item of 'reflective glow' attached to their bag or coat if not already attached, to ensure they are visible when walking to school and home again. Additionally, bicycle lights should be considered for all children. And bicycle helmets are strongly advised.

You Said/We Did

You have told us the communication could be better. We will maintain:

- Our monthly newsletter with calendar of events for the month ahead (emailed and uploaded to the website)
- Daily website posts
- Daily social media posts - [see here](#)
- Texts where appropriate

To enhance our communication further, we have organised two noticeboards. One has been located near the outdoor gym and one near the school reception. We will ensure that key information is included for your convenience.