



Rowner Junior School

Newsletter 8 - April 2024

The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change	
Year 3 - Miss Dymond and Miss Finn	Monday and Wednesday Children are to wear their PE kit into school on their PE day
Year 4 - Mrs Thomson and Miss Winzar	Monday and Thursday Children are to wear their PE kit into school on their PE day.
Year 5 - Miss Daly and Miss Harding	Monday (swimming) and Wednesday Children are to wear their PE kit into school on their PE day
Year 6 - Miss Pollit and Mrs Walton	Tuesday and Thursday Children are to wear their PE kit into school on their PE day
Key dates for April	
Monday 15th April	1. Return to school 2. Y5 swimming
Tuesday 16th April	Y3 Parent-Teacher meeting
Wednesday 17th April	Y5 Parent-Teacher meeting
Thursday 18th April	Y4 Parent - Teacher meeting
Monday 22nd April	Y5 swimming
Thursday 25th April	BAE Roadshow at BP
Friday 26th April	Dance Live finals
Monday 29th April	Y5 swimming
Upcoming dates for May (Please note dates will be added to this list in the next newsletter)	
Monday 6th May	BANK HOLIDAY - School shut
Monday 13th May	1. Y5 swimming 2. Y6 SATS - English, grammar, punctuation and spelling
Tuesday 14th May	Y6 SATS - English reading

Wednesday 15th May	Y6 SATS - Maths paper 1 arithmetic and maths paper 2 reasoning
Thursday 16th May	Y6 SATS - Maths paper 3: reasoning
Monday 20th May	Y5 swimming
Thursday 23rd May	Second full LGB meeting
Friday 24th May	End of term
Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May	Half term
Monday 3rd June	Return to school

BAE Roadshow

The BAE roadshow will be taking place at Brune Park on Thursday 25th April. We attend the show annually, to support our STEM enrichment and are grateful to Bay House for hosting the event. The whole school will be walked to the event. The focus will be on electricity - it is set to be a sparky event.

Communication

It is your responsibility to ensure that the school office has up-to-date information e.g. phone numbers, email addresses, home addresses. As our primary form of communication is emails, it is therefore essential that we have an up-to-date email address for an account that you can access. There may be occasions when we send a text message, however these will be for emergencies only e.g. to inform you of a medical need/incident. Our monthly newsletter is also displayed in the two display boards that we have on the school playground for your reference.

Dance Live Finals

On Friday 26th April, Rowner Junior School will perform in their final heats at Dance Live! In the recent fundraising that took place, your continued support helped to raise £349.41. This money will go towards the cost of the coach and further resources required for our performance. Thank you so much for supporting our young people.

Rehearsals continue in earnest and we are so proud of all of the children that are taking part. They are amazing representatives and we know that you will join us all in wishing them all of the very best of luck in the finals.

Happy Easter

Wishing all of Team Rowner, big and small, a restful and safe Easter break. The weather may be a little chilly but we are hoping for some sunny days to help us enjoy time outside. We are hopeful that our bee garden will be showing further signs of stepping into spring. We look forward to seeing you all on **Monday 15 April**.

Internet Safety

Internet safety is incredibly important. We take the safety of our pupils very seriously including their safety whilst online. E-Safety is taught in each year group at an appropriate level and this approach to e-safety spreads to the home online environment too. We recognise that the internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online. Issues that your child may encounter on the internet will vary depending on their age and online activities, however communication between yourselves and your child is key in keeping your child safe online. Some simple actions can help to keep your child safe. For example:

- monitor the time they are spending online
- regularly check what they are viewing

- Have the computer/use devices in a communal area where it is easier to monitor what your children are viewing. Do not let children have webcams, or similar, in their bedroom. Remember any image, sound or text can be copied and viewed by everyone.
- Regularly discuss online safety and go online with your child. Communication is key to 'staying safe online'. Encourage your children to tell you if they feel uncomfortable, upset or threatened by anything they see online. **If you are concerned about what your child is being exposed to and are unsure on next steps, the NSPCC site has some helpful advice for parents.**

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

- Keep virus and firewall software up-to-date. Enable your 'browser safe' search option and/ or consider using internet filtering software, walled gardens and child-friendly search engines. Critically view all content as some websites are not what they appear.

We have also committed to monthly parent newsletters to support you in navigating online safety. Our recent Police and PCSO visit, for Year 5 and Year 6, reinforced some very important messages.

Helpful websites:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-3-11s>

For a parental guide to apps, including gaming apps and social media apps look at the following link as well as other general information on keeping safe online:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/>

King's Group Academy - KGA

THE GFM will be merging with the King's Group Academy (KGA) on Wednesday 1 May 2024. Please see the separate letter and information below regarding our changes to the school logo. We will be known as King's Academy Rowner and you will see branding changing around the school - email address too - more information to follow. The KGA CEO, Mr Nick Cross, will be leading an assembly on Thursday 2 May to introduce himself to the whole school - some of whom have already met him.

He will be visiting our school half termly, and he looks forward to meeting more of you on his visits.

New Menus and payments

Our new [menus](#) are delicious! We can't wait for Meat Free Mondays. The menus are incredibly tasty. Rising costs of food is also impacting on schools, however we continue to provide lunches at a reasonable cost for our families. Meals currently cost £2.80 and are to be paid on Tucasi, ideally in advance as this ensures that families do not accrue any debts. These are monitored and we will inform parents if they begin to exceed a debt of £11.20 and these will need to be paid as promptly as possible. Non-payment might mean that your child is unable to order any further school meals until the debt is cleared.

SATs for Year 6

SATs have been scheduled for Year 6 by the government this year commencing the week beginning 13th May.

The school is committed to ensuring pupils make progress throughout their learning journey at Rowner and can account for this accordingly. We will share attainment information with Y6 parents/carers in our annual reports (July) and liaise closely with secondary schools to inform them about Year 6 respectively.

More information about SATS and how parents can support them will appear in the May newsletter, however please see an overview of the week below.

Date	Test
Monday 13th May 2024	Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 1 Spelling Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 2
Tuesday 14th May 2024	English Reading
Wednesday 15th May 2024	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)

Swimming - year 5

Our swimming programme begins after the Easter holiday for our year 5 pupils. This forms part of the PE curriculum for the summer term and will take place at Brune Park school. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and therefore **all children are expected to take part.**

Children need to have the appropriate swimwear, **not beachwear.**

- boy's trunks should be above the knee in length and girls must wear a one piece swimming costume.
- Goggles are permitted if your child would prefer to wear them.
- Long hair needs to be tied back and we encourage jewellery to be left at home – no earrings please on the days when they are swimming.
- We encourage children to wear swimming caps.
- Children will also need to bring a towel and waterproof bag to bring their kit into school.
- If children wear their swimming costumes to school if it is a morning session, please ensure they have underwear to change into.
- All swimming kits and school uniforms need to be named.
- Children need to wear their school uniform on the swimming day.

If your child is taking part in swimming then they will only have one other PE session that week. As year 5 will be swimming, then their second PE session will be on a Wednesday.

Uniform

As referenced in the Autumn Term 2023 Kings Group Academy (KGA) drop-ins, with CEO Nick Cross, each GFM school will have Kings Academy added to the name of their school. We will become **King's Academy Rowner** and will remove the words 'junior school' from our branding and logo. Therefore, **from September 2024** (when families typically buy new uniform items) there is going to be a change to the logos on our uniform. For those families who do not need to buy a new Rowner cardigan/jumper/sports jacket for September, we are asking Skoolkit to provide some patches with the new King's Academy Rowner logo so that you can cover the current Rowner Junior logo. Please see the full letter regarding the revised September 2024 uniform list that was sent home the same day as the April newsletter email.

You said / we did....

Thank you to the 26 parents who shared their views in the recent Parent/carer survey. This survey was shared in our March newsletter and was also then shared again via email.

85% of you said that your child is happy at school.

"My child looks forward to school every day and feels encouraged and supported"

92% of you said that your child feels safe at school.

"My daughter feels happy and safe at the school. She gets up and looks forward to her days with you."

85% of you said that when you have raised a concern with school, it has been dealt with properly.

"Any issues have been dealt with quickly by the relevant staff."

85% of you would recommend us to another parent.

"I have experience of bad schools and Rowner is amazing so I recommend to everyone."

"People ask me how my son is getting on and I always recommend the school. A child has changed school to RJS with my recommendation and is doing well and has become more confident."

We are always striving to be our best and members of staff are already reaching out to those parents/carers that shared their thoughts on how we could be even better! We will be sharing more information, in regards to our response to the survey in upcoming 'You said / we did...'