



Rushey Mead Primary School

'Broadening Horizons'

Upcoming School Dates

Tuesday 18th April 2023

Vaisakhi Celebration at home time

Monday 24th April 2023

Eid Ul-Fitr Celebration at home time

Tuesday 25th April 2023

Curriculum Evening for Years 1 & 2 + Years 5 & 6

Thursday 27th April 2023

Curriculum Evening for Years EYFS + Years 3 & 4

Tuesday 9th May— Friday 12th May 2023

Year 6 SATs Week

Monday 15th May — Friday 19th May 2023

Year 2 SATs Week

Monday 12th June—Friday 15th June 2023

Year 1 & 2 Phonics Screening Check

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Wednesday 14th June 2023

Year 6 London Trip

Friday 16th June 2023

EYFS & KS1 Sports' Day / Picnic

Friday 30th June 2023

KS2 Sports' Day / Picnic

Wednesday 5th July 2023

Rushey Mead Summer Festival

Thursday 13th July 2023

End of Year Reports to Parents

Friday 14th July 2023

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Final day in school before summer holidays

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents / Carers,

The past two terms have flown by and have been packed full of fantastic learning experiences for our children. Many thanks as always to our staff, parents, carers and governors.



I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all the children across the school all the very best next term as they will be taking part in a number of DfE Statutory Assessments:

- Year 1 & 2 Phonics Screening Check
- Year 2 SATs
- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
- Year 6 SATs

I know school leaders, teachers and support staff have worked extremely hard to ensure sure that all the children in school reach their full potential!

Hopefully, as the weather continues to improve, we will be able to spend more time outside and enjoy the sunshine in the final term of this academic year.

We wish everyone celebrating, a very Happy Easter and those celebrating, Happy Vaisakhi during the holidays. We look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday 17th April 2023 for more exciting, fun-filled learning!

Best Wishes,

Mr. N Odedra.

(Headteacher)



Promoting and Celebrating Good Attendance and Punctuality

Here at Rushey Mead Primary School we understand the impact good attendance and punctuality has on our children's learning and we believe in rewarding good attendance and punctuality to engage and motivate them.



As a result, we have introduced some new initiatives to support and celebrate attendance and punctuality so that it remains a high profile in school and with our families. There will be an Attendance Trophy handed out to one class across each key stage and celebrated in our celebration assemblies or in class. The class with the highest percentage will then be crowned Attendance Champions for their key stage at the end of each week.

Also, at the end of each term we will be giving every child who has achieved 100% attendance an opportunity to win a prize! Every child who achieves 100% attendance will have their name put into a prize draw to win a £20.00 gift card to spend with their family. This means by the end of this week if your child achieved 100% attendance this term, may come home with a £20.00 gift card!

Rushey Mead's School Vision, Ethos and Culture

Behaviour of children and their attitudes to learning continues to remain something we pride ourselves on as a school. We have high expectations of all children showing high levels of courtesy, enthusiasm, engagement and cooperation in lessons and around school.

In order to achieve success in school, children should demonstrate a positive attitude towards their learning and continuously learn the ability to make good choices and decisions for themselves thus eliminating those rare occasions of poor behaviour around school and in classrooms.

In order to maintain this level of behaviour and positive attitude to learning, the school has implemented a number of new whole school initiatives linked to the school's vision statement, ethos and school culture. This includes the introduction of the new school promises, Rushey Rules and Character Traits. Please remind your child of these initiatives so that we can continue to celebrate their successes in a positive manner.



School Promises

I promise to :

- **a**cquire skills and knowledge for academic success.
- **b**ecome confident in using the English language.
- **c**hallenge myself and engage with the enriched curriculum to become confident and resilient.
- **d**iscover and extend my talents and strengths.
- **e**njoy and celebrate the rich diversity of the school and local community.
- **f**ulfil the lives of others by being an active and caring person.



Our Key Character Traits

Ambitious
Articulate
Resilient
Respectful
Curious
Kind



Rushey Rules

I will :

- walk safely in school
- be kind and respect other people
- respect other people's property
- keep my hands and feet to myself
- listen carefully

Introducing Rushey Mead Primary School's Character Traits

As a part of rewarding good behaviour and attitudes, celebration assemblies in each key stage focus on 'Character Awards' based on the character traits to promote the different qualities that define children at Rushey Mead Primary School and makes them who they are.

Articulate




If someone is described as articulate, it means that they are able to express their thoughts and ideas easily and well. When you articulate your ideas or feelings, it means you are able to express them clearly in words.

Resilient



Resilience is the ability to bounce back after challenges and tough times. Resilient people can recover from setbacks and get back to their normal life. Resilience develops when people experience challenges and learn to deal with them positively. Strong relationships are the foundation of children's resilience.

Curious




Curiosity means the ability to apply a sense of wonder and a desire to learn more. Curious people try new things, ask questions, search for answers, relish new information, and make connections, all while actively experiencing and making sense of the world.

Kind



Being kind is being selfless, caring, compassionate, and unconditionally kind. Like love, it takes practice to understand and feel it. We share love with others through kind acts such as a smile, a nice word, an unexpected deed, or a planned surprise.

Ambitious



Being ambitious in school means identifying your passions or goals, starting a daily process through which to achieve these goals, making regular reflections about your progress, celebrating accomplishments, and making changes to the process when necessary.

Respectful

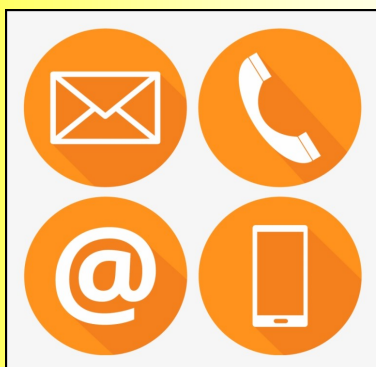


Respect means that you accept somebody for who they are, even when they're different from you or you don't agree with them. Respect in your relationships builds feelings of trust, safety, and wellbeing. Respect doesn't have to come naturally – it is something you learn.



Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

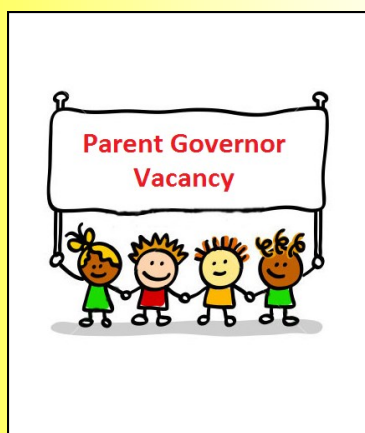
If parents/carers are in receipt of any government benefits, the school strongly encourages you to apply for free school meals for your child. Even if your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y2 and getting universal infant free school meals, this will help to ensure that your child continues to receive free school meals when s/he is in Y3. For every child who is granted a free school meal entitlement, the school receives £1,385 pupil premium income for every year your child is in school. This money is then used to help support your child's learning. For more details on how to apply for free school meals, please click on this link: <https://freeschoolmeals.leicester.gov.uk/> If you need any support in applying for free school meals, please speak to a member of the office team.



Contact Details and Medical Conditions

Please ensure the school office has the correct contact details and are notified about any changes of numbers and addresses, along with any medical conditions. It is important for the school to have the correct information so we can contact parents/ carers should we need to.

Become A Parent Governor!



We are currently looking for new Parent Governors and would be delighted to hear from parents / carers who have an interest in school performance and a desire to contribute to and represent the school community.

You do not need to have any experience or prior knowledge but the confidence to ask questions and a willingness to listen and make informed judgements.

If you are interested, please contact Wendy West, Business Manager or Karen Sheerin, Inclusion Manager / School Governor.



KS2 French Curriculum

Bonjour!

The Key Sage 2 children are continuing to enjoy learning French fortnightly on their Curriculum Enrichment days. They are now also having time in between sessions to practice and secure their new knowledge and skills with their class teachers.



It is fantastic that so many of the children are committing to spending time outside of school to work on mastering the French language and I always love hearing about the different ways they have been practicing. I have listed some of the brilliant online websites at the side that can be hugely beneficial to support them in doing so. They are all free and easy to use, however some may require a parent to set up an account using their email address or Google Id.

Key topics to focus on:



Year 3: Greetings, Common classroom commands and action verbs, Colours and Numbers 0-10

Years 4/5/6: Basic introductory conversation, Colours, Numbers 0-31, Clothing, Stationery, Days of the week, Months of the Year, Asking and answering - What day is it? When is your birthday? How old are you?



Looking forward to seeing the hard work pay off- practice makes progress!

Bonnes Vacances!

Madame March



Cross Country Champion!

Children across Key Stage Two attended a Cross Country running event at Victoria Park in Leicester earlier this term.

The children all persevered and trained extremely hard after nearly two years of no sporting events due to the pandemic.

Our very own, Shashvat Jani in Year 5 came 2nd in the cross country event and the team did a great job cheering on all the competitors.

Well done everybody!



EYFS — Nursery

This half term our theme was Dangerous Dinosaurs, we read the story 'How to Catch a Star' and 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants'. We discussed different ways of how to catch a star and made our own 'star catchers' from junk modelling.

For our 'wow day' the dinosaurs came and left pants all over our classroom and we had to work out who they belonged to! We also learnt about repeating patterns and designed our own pants. In PE we have been learning how to balance during our gymnastics sessions.



EYFS — Reception



We have had such an exciting term in Reception! The children have been learning the story The Enormous Turnip and have been linking their learning to growing and how things grow from a seed. The children have been asking fantastic questions that made us think where does our food really come from. The children continued to work hard in reception and enjoyed the story of Leon and Bob.

They loved role playing with an imaginary friend and we discussed and learnt about different types of emotions. In maths the children have been enjoying lots of practical ways of learning and are becoming more and more confident each day! The children enjoyed learning about, patterns, capacity and building on number sense knowledge.

We are all enjoying the science activities in class and have made observational drawings of fruit and plants and experimented with what might float or sink. As always, the children love Curriculum Enrichment days and are always eager to get involved and try new activities such as body boards with a mix of Star Wars. The children have also been learning new skills in food technology, where they made Easter cakes.



We have also had a visit from Creative Learning Services – Wash-day Tuesday, where the children used genuine museum artefacts and discussed the past and the present.

Thank you for your continued support this term!

Have a lovely Easter holiday and see you all soon.

Promoting and Celebrating Good Attendance and Punctuality

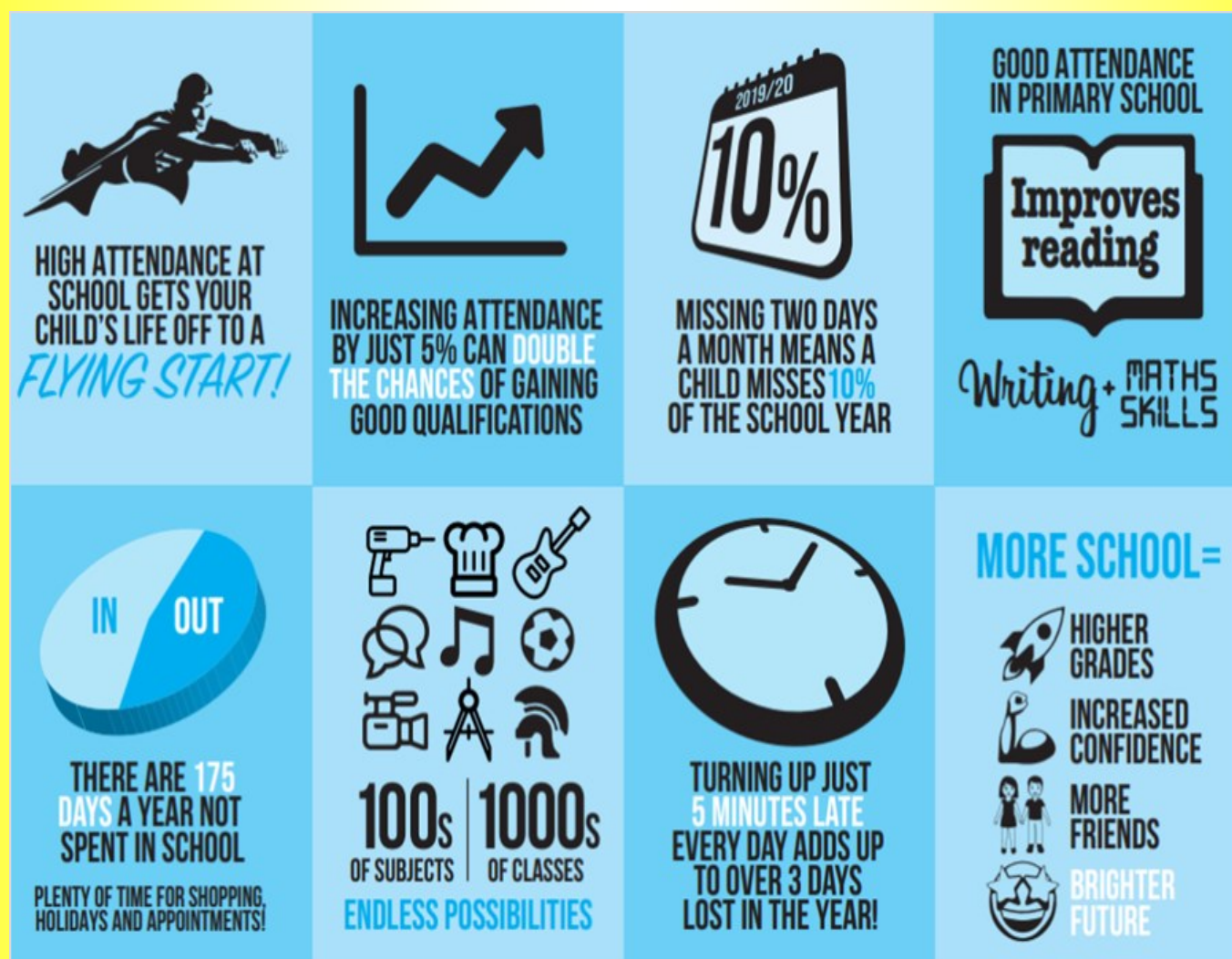
At Rushey Mead Primary School we place great importance on good attendance and punctuality. We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly absent from school and regularly late do not achieve their potential and do fall behind in class. Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time.

Absences should be reported to the school office before 9.15am on the first day of absence. The school monitors attendance on a regular basis, children's attendance that falls below 92% is picked up by the School Attendance Officer and Education Welfare Officer.

It is important for a child to be on time at the beginning of the school day. The school gates open at 8.40am and closes at 8.50am. Lateness can be very disruptive for all children in class. If a child is late and miss's registration, a late mark will be recorded. Obviously, the school will be sympathetic if this is for a good reason. If however a pattern of lateness starts to emerge, parents will be sent a letter and if it does not improve they will be invited to discuss the matter with the Head teacher in order to reach a satisfactory solution

Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. This equates to 19 days or more absence a year. If a child's attendance drops below 90% this could lead to them becoming a safeguarding concern. We would advise parents / carers not to take their child out of school during term time for holidays so as to not disrupt their learning and more often than not children after these extended holidays will have gaps in their learning, which will affect attainment and progress as they move through the school.

If there is no other alternative, permission is required from the head teacher if you want to take your child out of school during term time as this will be recorded as either an authorised or unauthorised absence. If the absence is unauthorised it could result in the authority taking legal action against parents and could result in a fine or court appearance if a holiday is taken during term time without the school's permission.





Red Nose Day / Comic Relief

Thank you for all of your contributions towards Comic Relief and Red Nose Day on Friday 17th March 2023.

Because of your generosity, we were able to raise a massive £431.70 for Comic Relief.

Thank you for your support!



Year One

In Year 1 this term we have been reading Katie in London and Coming to England and have really enjoyed learning and innovating the stories.

The children are also learning about the features of a non-chronological report. In Science, we have learnt about Winter and winter animals.

In Geography, we learnt about the 4 countries of the United Kingdom and learnt about how to use maps.

In Art, we created collages using different materials to create a weather motif and then printed these to create a collagraphy.

For our Design and Technology, we learnt about wheels and axles and designed and made Taxis. In RE we learnt about the festival of Purim and performed a dance too.

Well done everyone!

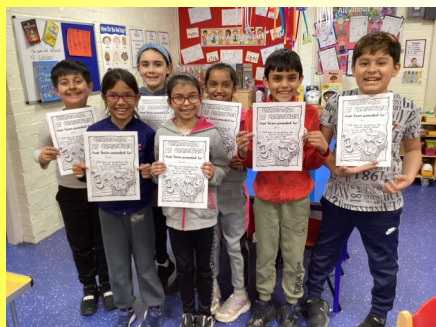
Have a lovely Easter!



Positive People

Well done to all the children who took part in the Positive People Group for their resilience and perseverance and completing the 10 week course.

They all received a certificate of completion!



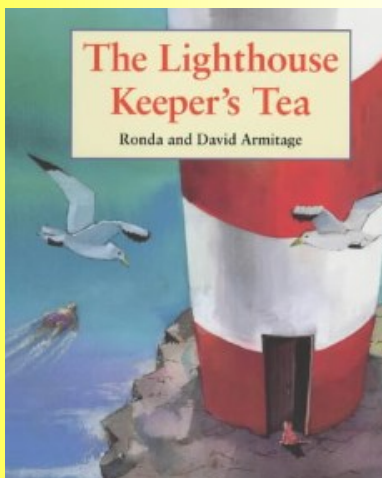
Year Two

Fir and Chestnut classes have had a very busy Spring term learning about the British coastline. We were delighted to have Katie from the Leicestershire Museum Services come to visit and talk to the children about the seaside of the past. She brought many artefacts to show us in addition to which, the children had fun dressing-up in sea-side costumes and making a simple Victorian style paper spinner's. The children have also constructed their own mini beach huts. They practiced different ways in which card constructions can be strengthened and thought about the ways in which these could help their beach huts maintain strength and stability.

In English the children have enjoyed listening and exploring the texts 'The Lighthouse Keepers Tea' and the traditional tale 'The Elves and the Shoemaker.' They have written letters, diary entries and an innovated story.

In Maths, Year 2 continue to strengthen their working knowledge of numbers to one hundred. They have also learnt how to read scales in weight and length and to count money.

Looking forward to next term, Year 2 will be completing their SATs tests. To support them in English and Maths, we have looked at past papers and have been guiding them in how best to approach these papers.



Food for Life Celebration Event

Mrs Sheerin and children from Year 5 went to Merrydale Infants school for a Food For Life Celebration event. They had a lovely talk from the owners of Bobby's restaurant about healthy food and then tasted some of their lovely food...yum! They then had a tour of Merrydale and finished off the afternoon planting some beans and peas to bring back to our school. Thanks to Merrydale Infants school for hosting we had a great time!

#Merrydale Infants

#Food for life

#soil Association

DSP - Bonsai Class



Our topic this half term in Bonsai Class has been 'How many colours in the rainbow?'. The children have carried out lots of art activities around colour and have become more confident with signing the different colours of the rainbow as well as exploring mixing colours together.



In English the children have been learning the story of The Rainbow Fish to link with this theme. We have really enjoyed learning the different Makaton signs for the different animals that we see in the sea. The children have also started to show a good understanding of using colourful semantics to construct a simple sentence. In Maths, the children have continued to practise recognising and counting numbers forwards and backwards to 10, continuing patterns, naming 2D shapes and positional language.

Sleep Tips

Here are some things you can do to help get a good night's sleep.

Make sure your bedroom is cool, dark, and quiet.
Ask your parents to help.

Exercise during the day.
Running and playing at least 3 hours before bed help your body get ready for sleep.

Try to go to bed the same time every night.
Your body gets used to a schedule and will be ready to sleep.



Avoid big meals before bedtime.
Drink a warm glass of milk or have a light healthy snack like fruit instead.

Don't drink sodas with caffeine... especially in the afternoon and at night.

Have a bedtime routine.
Do the same relaxing things before bed each night, like taking a warm shower, reading, or listening to quiet music.
Your body will know it is time to get ready to sleep.

Rainbows Nurture Group



The Rainbows Nurture children had fun making their Easter bonnets this week ready for the Easter Bonnet Parade today!

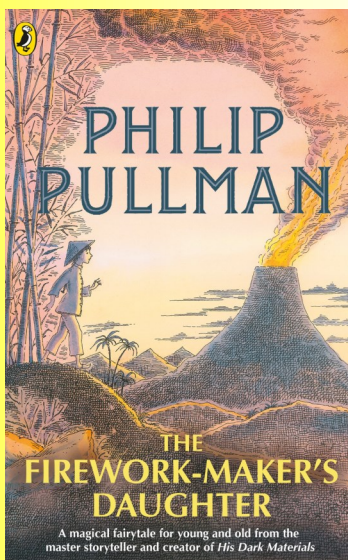
As the children learn academically and socially they develop confidence, become responsive to others, learn self-respect and take pride in behaving well and in achieving.



Year 3



We have had a very busy term in Year 3. We began the year with a wonderful performance by the children to celebrate Chinese New Year. They really enjoyed learning about the traditions and are growing in confidence in their performance skills.



We've also been fascinated when learning about the earth in our Geography theme – Rocks, Relics and Rumbles. A particular highlight was making a model out of plasticine to show the structure of the Earth, and making our very own compasses.

We've also really enjoyed reading our class read, *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman. The children have worked really hard and we are very proud of the progress they are making. Have a lovely Spring break!

Year Four



Year 4 have had a very busy start to 2023! One of many highlights was getting our golden tickets and making our way to Cadbury World.

The children loved exploring the factory and got to taste lots of tasty sweet treats too!

This visit supplemented our English and Science learning very well as we were looking at Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and States of Matter.

In English we had a lot of fun designing and bringing to life our very own chocolate bar!



We have also really enjoyed going swimming each week and the children have impressed us with their consistent enthusiasm and maturity. Lots of the children are now much more confident in the water and they cannot wait to continue with their lessons in Year 5!

Children will be completing their multiplication tables check next term, so please continue supporting at home by encouraging them to play Times Tables Rockstars in order to recall their multiplication facts with accuracy.

We'd also like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your ongoing support and hope that you have a restful Easter



Computing – Digital Leaders



Children have been busy this term designing their own Online Safety posters to apply to become a Digital Leader. Miss Newell and Mr Lloyd were once again impressed to see how enthusiastic the children were about Computing and it was a very difficult decision to make after receiving over 50 fantastic entries!

Our new Digital Leaders will start their roles after the Easter Holidays and will help keep our technology (iPads/Chromebooks) neat and tidy as well as support peers with their Computing learning.

They will also help spread the message of Online Safety and attend regular meetings with Miss Newell/Mr Lloyd to make lots of important decisions to improve Computing across the school!

Congratulations everyone!



Online Safety

We would like to remind you of the importance to monitor your child's online presence. We would also like to take the opportunity to remind parents and carers that many online platforms have a minimum age restriction of 13+ including TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. If a social network has set an age limit, it means that some if not all content may not be suitable for a younger child. Considering the following questions could help monitor your child's internet usage:



- Is your child spending too much time online?
- Are they talking to strangers online?
- How often and for how long are they using devices?

Year Five



Back in January, Year 5 had an amazing time learning to ride a bike with Bikeability. All the children had an opportunity to ride a bike, and those who passed the assessment, spent their days learning to ride safely on the roads around school. This was an excellent opportunity, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.



We also ventured out to the National Space Centre, this exciting day trip gave the children the chance to enhance their learning on our Science topic, Earth and Space. By far the most popular part of the trip was the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium, where they learnt about what it takes to become an astronaut. They explored the amazing worlds of inner and outer Space, from floating around the International Space Centre, to discovering the perils that lurk in Space.



Our Geography unit, Sow, Grow and Farm allowed the children to learn about where their food comes from, the conditions plants need to grow and the issues facing farmers throughout the world. Did you know they are 42 Allotments in Leicester?

Overall, it's been a very busy term but the excitement does not stop there... next term it's SWIMMING! We can't wait to start our swimming lessons again and the children will need to find their Cossington Library Cards too.

Thank you for all of your support this term and we hope you have a lovely Easter break!

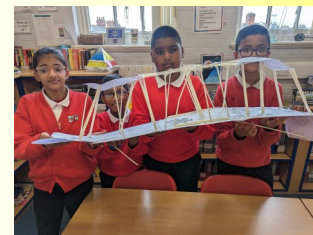
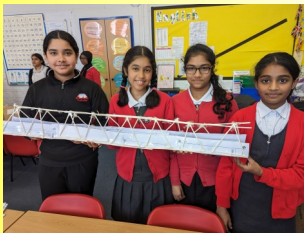
Year 5 Team



Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy and interesting term. During an Art day, which was linked to our Frozen Kingdoms theme, pupils learnt to create artwork in the style of Inuit artists. The result was some fantastic stencil art, animal models carved out of clay and a painting.

The pupils also enjoyed a DT day with a focus on engineering. They learnt all about strengthening bridges and were challenged to work in groups to design and build a bridge that would then be tested to measure how much weight it would hold – the results were quite amazing. Of course, hard work to prepare for the SATs carries on.



We continue to have a number of complaints from residents living on Magnus Road where some parents /carers are parking in people's driveways and on the pavement making it difficult for these residents to leave their own homes. Some parent / carers are also parking on the pavement or on the yellow / zig-zag lines outside the school gates.

This can be problematic if a resident wants to use their own vehicle and leave their house, especially if there is an emergency, in particular a medical / fire emergency where someone's health and safety is concerned. Not to mention the dangers this may cause pedestrians and putting our children's lives at risk with careless parking and driving!

While parking in someone else's drive is not a criminal offence, it does count as trespassing, which is a civil offence! This means the resident can pursue a civil case against the driver parking their car for trespassing.

We suggest and advise that parents and carers park their vehicles in Rushey Fields car park when dropping off or collecting their children, which is only a short walk from the school.

Residents living in and around the school community would very much appreciate this so that cars are parked away from people's driveways and on nearby pavements during school drop off and pick up times.

Please abide by the rules and park safely and considerately.

Introducing Wheelchair Basketball at Rushey Mead Primary!



The children in Years 3-6 enjoyed a visit from the Make Change Inclusive Sport Programme who provided us with the opportunity to experience Wheelchair Basketball. Even Mrs Watts had a go!

Some children even got a go in HRH Prince Harry's first Invictus Wheelchair!

Make Change Inclusive Sport Programme delivers activities that are inclusive, fun, and play a vital role in breaking down barriers to activity for a wide range of people from different backgrounds.



Key Stage Two Basketball Tournament

Our Key Stage Two children have been taking part in a basketball tournament at lunchtimes and competing with other schools across the county. The children performed admirably and a special mention to Year 4 who came first!

1	Sacred Heart	Rushey Mead	Sacred Heart	Hope Hamilton
2	Rushey Mead	Evington Valley	Hope Hamilton	Sacred Heart
3	Evington Valley	CTK	Rushey Mead	Rushey Mead

Nut Allergies



A reminder to all parents and carers that we are a Nut-Free school due to some children and staff having allergies. Please help us to protect them by not sending food with nuts in as part of children's packed lunch boxes or as birthday treats. Also, boxes of chocolate like Roses and Quality Street contain nuts so please refrain from sending your child in with these particular chocolates.

Follow us on Twitter



Please follow us on Twitter where we have lots of exciting updates showcasing the activities that the children are taking part in at school including sporting events, assemblies and other areas of the curriculum!

@mead_rushey

Visit the School Website



Parent / carers can visit the school website, which provides valuable information around our school including the school curriculum, statutory information and specific information for our parents and carers.

<https://www.rusheymead-pri.leicester.sch.uk/>